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Pakistani President begins consultations

Benazir will get the first chance to form cabinet

ISLAMABAD, Nov 22, (Agencies): Populist leader Benazir Bhutto and her conservative rival, Nawaz Sharif, met separately with Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today to discuss the formation of a government.

Ishaq Khan told a cabinet meeting yesterday that he has decided Benazir should be given the first chance to form the next government, official sources said.

Four senior government sources speaking in separate interviews said Ishaq Khan acknowledged to the cabinet that Benazir had enough support from independents and small parties to command a National Assembly majority.

Chance

The sources said Ishaq Khan expressed the opinion that she must be asked to put together the next administration before any other political leader.

"Benazir should be given the first chance to form a government," one source quoted the President as saying.

Benazir arrived in Islamabad from the southern port of Karachi to be greeted by thousands of cheering supporters at the airport. She went straight to the presidential palace for a meeting with Ishaq Khan.

The President also met with Nawaz Sharif, head of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, a government-backed coalition, and is to meet leaders of smaller parties and groups over the next three days to discuss the next government.

The PPP gained the largest number of National Assembly seats in Wednesday's general

elections, but failed to secure an absolute majority.

The President will appoint a prime minister from whichever party he believes can command a majority in the lower house of Parliament.

Justice Minister Waseem Sajjad said in a statement Ishaq Khan had "started a process of consultations with the leaders of the major parties and groups to assess their real strength in the house... with a view to making up the mind about the person to be called upon to form a government."

Sajjad denied that the nomination of a prime minister was being unnecessarily delayed and said the President's decision will "only be announced" upon the completion of constitutional and legal requirements.

He did not elaborate, but the National Assembly members must take the oath of office on Dec 5.

Benazir, 35-year-old daughter of hanged Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, is bidding to become the first woman leader of a Muslim nation and the youngest prime minister of Pakistan.

Gained

The sources said the President's proposal was opposed by most of the cabinet, who are all members of the Pakistan Muslim League, the chief component party of the IDA, and several of whom lost their National Assembly seats in the elections. However, Ishaq Khan alone will decide who to name as prime minister.

Following the cabinet meeting, Education Minister Nasiruddin Jozgezi, without referring specifically to the PPP, said "the party which had evidently gained the majority in the assembly should be given the chance to form the government."

He told reporters the Pakistan Muslim League "should play their due role effectively by sit-

ting on the opposition benches in the National Assembly."

Results from 215 of 217 National Assembly seats contested on Wednesday gave the PPP 99, an ally seven, the IDA 57, and smaller parties and independents 52. A further 20 seats in the assembly are reserved for women, who are elected by the existing members.

Benazir has consistently maintained that the President has "no choice" but to ask her to form the next government based on the results and that she further had the support of enough independents and small parties to command a majority.

However, Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab province and the most senior IDA leader to win a seat, claims he can form a broad-based federal government, "minus the PPP."

Benazir expressed impatience today at not yet being designated as the prime minister despite her election victory last week.

Promised

"We won the election and democracy was promised," she said in a US television interview. "... So why is there any hesitation now?"

Benazir said in the interview she hoped to expand US-Pakistan relations beyond the strategic interests on which she said they were based under President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

"I think in the last decade the relationship was guided more by strategic interests," she said.

"Many other areas of American concern... such as human rights were neglected," she said. "So I think a democratic government can better share even additional roles of interest than a dictatorship one."

On Afghanistan, she said: "It is important that the Soviets withdraw and keep to the timetable... no attempt should be made to aggravate the situation."

Quality of life enjoyed by people

Kuwait leads Arab world

TUNIS, Nov 22, (KUNA): Judging by at least three key indicators, Arab countries, except Kuwait, have less than average quality of life compared with the advanced nations, according to a statistical study released by the Arab League today.

The study reached the conclusion by comparing the Arab world with the advanced nations in such areas as energy consumption, the population-vehicles ratio, circulation of newspapers, the cultural climate and availability of recreational facilities.

On an average, the study says, there are 10 private cars for each 1,000 people in the Arab world compared with 364 vehicles in West Europe and 131 cars in Eastern Europe.

The exceptions in the Arab world are Kuwait, where there

are 172 cars for every 1,000 people; 120 cars in the UAE and 88 vehicles in Libya for the same number of people, the study says.

Arabs also read less, as circulation of daily and periodical papers is 56 copies for each 1,000 people compared with 316 copies in the advanced nations.

Kuwait also emerges as an exception in leading the Arab world with a circulation of 236 publications for each 1,000 people, according to the study.

While the Arab world consumes energy at an annual average of 750 kg of oil, the rate in the advanced nations is 4,877 kg.

But oil-rich countries of the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia match the energy per head consumption levels of the advanced nations, with the UAE leading with an average of 5,379 kg.

Britain to continue privatisation drive

LONDON, Nov 22, (Reuters): Queen Elizabeth opened a new term of Britain's Parliament today, setting out a legislative agenda which includes a surprise move to lift the secrecy surrounding the domestic security service.

In her traditional opening address outlining Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's plans, she identified 16 bills to be brought before Parliament in a heavy programme which will further carry forward the government's sweeping privatisation drive.

On a crisp, bright autumn day, the Queen was driven by horse-drawn coach to Parliament's Palace of Westminster from Buckingham Palace in a colour-

ful parade through Central London that is one of Britain's great state occasions.

Addressing a joint session of the House of Lords and House of Commons in the crimson-decked upper chamber, she said the planned legislation was intended to fight terrorism and crime, advance social change and improve the climate for commerce.

She also said Thatcher's Conservative government, re-elected last year for a third consecutive term, was committed to protecting the environment, raising educational standards and improving health care.

The main features of the



Mulroney and wife, Mila, wave to the cheering victory celebration crowd in Quebec as sons Benedict (second left) and Mark look on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mulroney returned to office with reduced majority

TORONTO, Nov 22, (Agencies): Prime Minister Brian Mulroney called today for national healing after voters returned him to office with a weakened majority government that nonetheless protected the US-Canada free trade pact.

Mulroney's Progressive Conservative Party won yesterday's national election as Canadians accepted the "Leap of faith" that the 10-year deal to eliminate all remaining trade barriers with their southern neighbour was good for the country.

Compared

It was the first time since 1953 that a party won consecutive majority governments, and the first time this century for the Conservatives. But it was a slimmer margin for Mulroney than in 1984, when he led the Conservatives to one of the most impressive landslides in Canadian history.

Israeli jets bomb PLO bases

Rival Army parades mark Lebanon's Independence Day

SIDON, Lebanon, Nov 22, (Agencies): Israeli jets and helicopter gunships bombed two Palestinian positions in south Lebanon today, killing one guerrilla and wounding seven, as rival Army parades marked Lebanon's Independence Day.

Four jets and three helicopters struck at the positions near a refugee camp in this south Lebanese port.

One attack flattened a two-storey base of guerrillas loyal to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat on the southwestern edges of the Ain Al Hilweh shanty town.

In another run, they hit a one-storey sleeping quarters of Arafat's men only 50 metres (yards) away, set amid orange groves near a main road linking Ain Al Hilweh to Sidon.

Both bases were levelled by the 15-minute raid during which the jets and helicopters unleashed some 14 rockets.

Trapped

The sources said the raid killed a Palestinian guerrilla and wounded seven. Four other guerrillas, still trapped under the rubble of one position, were feared dead.

Some of the rockets blasted two jeep-mounted anti-aircraft guns at the outskirts of Ain Al

Hilweh, the biggest settlement in Lebanon and Arafat's last bastion after his men were driven out from two Beirut camps in June by pro-Syrian Palestinians.

The raid was the 24th on Lebanon by Israel this year. As the Israelis bombed Arafat's bases, Muslims and Christian troops of Lebanon's divided Army marched past their leaders today in displays of military muscle that starkly illustrated the widening rifts in the war-weary country.

Crippled
 For the first time since independence from France in 1943, Lebanon celebrated its National Day with no president, rival governments, a crippled Parliament and an Army split in two.

The military parades, one reviewed by Sunni Muslim General Sami Al Khatib and the other by Christian Army commander General Michel Aoun, highlighted the rift between the factions.

Aoun was appointed by outgoing Maronite Christian President Amin Gemayel in September to head an interim government until parliament can elect a new head of state.

But Selim Hoss, a Sunni

harmony and prosperity to Canada."

The Canadian Press News Agency said the Conservatives had 5.4 million votes, the Liberals 4.05 million and the New Democrats 2.4 million.

Hailed

Americans hailed the Canadian election results today by buying up Canadian dollars in the wee hours of the morning and looking ahead to a new era of free trade.

Only moments after it became apparent that Mulroney had won re-election, American traders started buying Canadian dollars on telephones at the Canadian consulate in New York.

Hecatic trading sent the Canadian dollar up to \$1.1960 from 1.2060 late yesterday and \$1.23 last Friday, a big jump in a currency by any standards.

White House officials expressed delight last night with Canadian election results.

GCC defence ministers meet to plot strategy

RIYADH, Nov 22, (Reuters): After 10 days of joint military exercises testing their forces' mettle, Gulf defence ministers gathered in Riyadh today to discuss modernising and upgrading their military capability.

The six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) ministers are meeting for the first time since the Aug 20 ceasefire in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara told an opening session of talks between the six-nation group's ministers that effective measures were needed to face any future threats.

"The talks will be in harmony with the region's security realities and though they have improved, fluctuations still remain possible. Alertness is needed and effective measures are necessary," Bishara said.

"The time for relaxation has not come yet... and joint preparation is the decisive response to possible surprises."

Kuwait's Defence Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al

Sabah, said the meeting aimed at military co-ordination "not for aggression but for peace."

Saudi Arabia's Okaz newspaper said the ministers, during the two-day talks opening late today, would explore setting up a military industry within the council countries.

Improve

And a GCC official commented: "They will discuss the military strategy of the GCC in view of the latest developments in the region."

Since the ceasefire, Iran has moved to improve ties with the GCC states, including Saudi Arabia. Riyadh broke off relations with Tehran last April after accusing it of hostile policies.

Gulf states have been gradually standardising military equipment but have a wide assortment of French, British and US aircraft, hardware and weapons.

Last week, they wound-up 10 days of exercises in Kuwait that included live firing close to the southern front of the Gulf war.

Turkey and Iran expel diplomats

ANKARA, Nov 22, (AP): Iran has ordered two Turkish diplomats to leave the country by tomorrow to retaliate for Turkey's expulsion of two Iranian diplomats last month, the Foreign Ministry said.

Two Iranian diplomats, Hamid Reza Karimu and Rasoul Bagher Shaijan, were first detained and later asked to leave the country for allegedly organising the kidnapping of a dissident in co-operation with a group of pro-Khomeini Iranians here.

Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said today a diplomatic solution to the problem is being sought with Iran before the deadline tomorrow. He refused to give the names of the Turkish diplomats but confirmed Turkish wire service reports that one is from the embassy in Tehran and the other from the consulate in Urmia, a western Iranian city near the Turkish border.

Retaliating

Iran has made clear in the expulsion order yesterday that it is retaliating for the move against the two Iranians on Oct 28, Batu said.

Security forces found an Iranian engineer, Seyin Ebu Hasan, in the trunk of the Iranian diplomats' car with his arms and legs tied at a highway gas station in the eastern province of Erzurum, police said at the time.

Four other Iranians without diplomatic immunity were arrested Oct 29 as suspects in the kidnapping attempt.

Porjaji Hedarikhaj Shahi and wife Taheran Ramazani Kaloslo, are at Istanbul's Sagmalcilar prison, prosecutor Faruk Asikoglu of Istanbul's Bakirkoy district said. Their four-year-old daughter is in prison with them because they have no one to look after her, he said.

He identified the two other Iranians in prison as Mehran Baheri and M. Khesrovi Abdullahi Pour.

Dreaming of love affairs

TOKYO, Nov 22, (AP): Japanese male office workers dream most of having love affairs with their female colleagues, getting divorced or changing their jobs, said a recent survey by a local insurance company.

The poll of 500 men, aged 20 to 60, by the Tokyo-based Fukuoku Mutual Life Insurance Co. also found that only 12.8 per cent said their employers require them to focus solely on work matters while in the office.

The poll said 58.4 per cent reported they are allowed to read newspapers on the job and 50.8 per cent said they can leave the office on personal business during working hours.

Asked what they dreamed of doing but knew they could not, 37 per cent of the men surveyed in the Tokyo poll said they would like to have love affairs with younger female colleagues in their office and 34.2 per cent said they dreamed of divorcing their wives.

Unified autobank cards

By Mohammad Al Barges

LOCAL commercial banks are on the verge of unifying cash withdrawal (autobank) cards to enable all banks' clients to withdraw from any autobank in Kuwait.

There are more than 187 computerised cash withdrawal booths for all the commercial banks in Kuwait.

The new card will enable clients having accounts in any bank to withdraw cash from their account at any autobank in Kuwait.

A commission of not more than 0.5 per cent will be charged to clients withdrawing money from banks other than theirs.

DAY BY DAY

CHRISTINA ONASSIS passed away recently.

A day before her death, I was watching a film on the life of her father. Nearing the end of the film, the doctor informs him that as a result of his rare illness which afflicts one in million persons, he is going to die.

Onassis looks at the doctor and tells him: "Illness has taught me that there are things that cannot be made or purchased with money."

The Greek Onassis was strong and clever, but death was stronger and cleverer than him.

Just two days ago, his daughter followed him and must have realised that there are things that money just cannot buy.

Zahed Matar

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اخبار و معلومات

- بے نظیر کو حکومت سازی کی پیشکش کا فیصلہ
- صدر اسحاق ڈار نے بے نظیر کو لازماً شریف کی بات چیت
- قاتل اربابان نے بے نظیر کی حمایت کردی
- پاکستان نے افغانستان کا الزام مسترد کر دیا
- عمران خان نے شرط عائد کردی

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
 State of sea: slight to moderate
 High water: 10.00 am, 12.00 pm
 Low water: 5.00 am, 5.00 pm
 Sunrise: 6.18 am
 Sunset: 4.50 pm
 Maximum temperature recorded:
 Kuwait: 22°C 72°F
 Ahmadi: 21°C 70°F
 Falaika: 20°C 68°F
 Minimum temperature recorded:
 Kuwait: 7°C 45°F
 Ahmadi: 11°C 52°F
 Falaika: 13°C 55°F
 Maximum temperature expected:
 Kuwait: 23°C 73°F
 Ahmadi: 22°C 72°F
 Falaika: 21°C 70°F
 Maximum humidity recorded:
 Kuwait: 52 per cent
 Ahmadi: 54 per cent
 Falaika: 56 per cent

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INTERNATIONAL

US team to visit Russian mental hospitals

Psychiatry used to repress dissidents: Soviet doctor

MOSCOW, Nov 22, (Agencies): Soviet psychiatry was systematically used in the 1970s to suppress dissidents by declaring them mentally ill and committing them to asylums, a doctor has written in the first article printed by state-run media to acknowledge such abuses.

"The leadership was content: In our country, there were no dissidents - there were only insane people," Mikhail I. Buyanov, a psychiatrist and neurologist, wrote in his historical survey of Soviet psychiatry, published by the educational newspaper Uchitel'skaya Gazeta.

Human rights activists in the Soviet Union and abroad have alleged for years that the Kremlin used psychiatric hospitals to incarcerate dissidents who were in fact mentally healthy. Some say the practice began under Josef V. Stalin or Nikita S. Khrushchev.

The government enacted a new law in January that makes it a crime to commit a sane person to a mental institution. But public health officials who have appeared at Moscow news conferences have denied that dissidents were systematically confined to asylums, or avoided an-

wering the question.

However, Buyanov wrote that with the forcible confinement in 1970 of biologist and dissident writer Zhores Medvedev to a regional psychiatric hospital in Kaluga, "a new chapter began in the history of Soviet psychiatry."

"It's true that before this, people were sent to psychiatric hospitals for reasons that were mostly political, rather than of medical character," Buyanov said in the article which appeared on Saturday. "But after 1970, this was done more and more often."

Medvedev, the brother of Marxist historian Roy Medvedev, was freed after human rights activist Andrei Sakharov, poet and editor Andrei Tvardovsky and others demanded his immediate release. He now lives in Britain.

Pardoned Andrei Koryagin, himself a psychiatrist, was sentenced to seven years in a prison camp in 1981 after accusing Soviet authorities of sending mentally healthy dissidents to hospitals, where they were forced to take drugs.

Koryagin was pardoned by the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, last year, freed from labour camp and emigrated to Switzerland.

The government later stripped him of his Soviet citizenship "for causing damage to the prestige of the Soviet Union."

Because of the abuses outlined by Koryagin, the United States and Britain considered trying to suspend or expel the Soviet Union from the World Psychiatry Association. The Soviets withdrew from the association in 1983, before a drive to expel them could be organised.

Agreed In Washington, the State Department said today that US and Soviet authorities have agreed on the terms for a group of American experts to examine patients at Soviet psychiatric hospitals early next year.

Spokesman Charles Redman said the US team of psychiatrists and other experts was expected to visit the Soviet Union in January. The exact date has not been set.

The agreement, which follows a long series of discussions and an exploratory visit to the Soviet Union by an American team earlier this month, is an attempt to address US concerns that psychiatry and confinement in mental hospitals are used as a political punishment or threat in the Soviet Union.

Rival Army parades ...

(Continued from Page 1)
continuity, unity and Arab identity."

Senior Syrian officers and a UN officer attended the Muslim Army ceremony, while US Ambassador John McCarthy, Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Sabbar Al Hudaissi and UN officers were present at the Christian parade.

Rival militiamen, meanwhile, fought fierce rocket and machinegun battles in southern suburbs today.

They said the sound of exploding rockets echoed across Beirut as fighters of the pro-Syrian

Amal militia battled others from the pro-Iranian Hezbollah in the streets of the suburbs.

Witnesses said the sudden flare up sent thousands of people and motorists screaming and panic-stricken in a race for safety.

Pope John Paul issued a strong appeal today for unity in Lebanon.

In a message to Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir on the 45th anniversary of Lebanese independence from France, the pontiff called on the international community to stand up for the Lebanese people's basic rights.

Hepatitis B increasing steeply in US

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (AP): The viral liver disease Hepatitis B poses such a health and economic threat in the United States that authorities are considering whether to inoculate all newborns or children, a US health official says.

Harold Margolis, an expert with the US centres for disease control, reported yesterday that nearly all intravenous drug users are now infected with the disease, which attacks the liver, causing jaundice and fatigue.

The number of US Hepatitis B cases has increased from 200,000 in 1978 to about 300,000 in 1988, Margolis said.

Officials estimate there are an estimated 300 million cases worldwide, and an estimated 1.5 million of the babies born this year will die eventually of the disease or its complications.

Hepatitis B is believed to be the major cause of primary liver cancer and the cause of about 5,000 US deaths a year, directly and indirectly, according to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

Margolis spoke at a news conference sponsored by the foundation, a non-profit organisation that promotes disease prevention.

Hepatitis B is spread through an exchange of body fluids, usually through sexual contact, the sharing of IV drug needles or from birthing mother to child.

Hepatitis A is spread mostly through food and is generally a mild disease.

Rehabilitated

MOSCOW, Nov 26, (Reuters): Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky's son Sergei Sedov, shot in Moscow in 1937 after his father was alleged to have plotted to kill Josef Stalin, has been rehabilitated, the government newspaper Izvestia reported.

Izvestia said a session of the supreme court considering thousands of appeals against death sentences passed down during Stalin's purges had "lifted all charges" against Sedov, who stayed behind when Trotsky was exiled abroad in 1929.

The decision appeared to be the latest in a cautious movement towards partial rehabilitation of Trotsky himself, murdered in Mexico in 1940 on what some Soviet historians now say could have been orders from Moscow.

Bihar police accused of human rights violations

NEW DELHI, Nov 22, (AP): Amnesty International today accused the police in the eastern state of Bihar of beating, raping and fatally torturing people in custody.

A report, released by the London-based human rights organisation, accused Bihar police of "deliberate unlawful killings and ill-treatment, including rape."

"No effective action appears to have been taken impartially to investigate abuses or to halt or prevent their occurrence," the report said.

Refused A spokesman for the Indian government refused comment on the report.

"We cannot comment until the report is verified," said the spokesman, who cannot be identified under government rules. He said the report will be referred to the Bihar government.

Amnesty International said the victims included landless labourers campaigning for minimum wages and land reform.

The report mentioned an incident in April 1986 in which police fired on a public meeting in the village of Arwal. At least 23 civilians were killed. The meeting was organised by a left-wing group to support claims to a piece of land by nine villagers.

Probe starts into killing by Saddam's son

BAGHDAD, Nov 22, (Reuters): Iraq's justice minister set investigators working today on the case of President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, ordered by his father to stand trial for killing a presidential servant.

Akram Abdul Qadir Al Douri appointed two prominent judges and a public prosecutor to begin the probe, after Saddam asked him yesterday for a "proper investigation and trial" of his 24-year-old son Odai, now being held in jail.

Last month's killing, whispered about for some time, became a subject for open debate among some Iraqis today. Saddam, 51, aroused sympathy among numerous Iraqis with the wording of his message to Al Douri, broadcast on Baghdad Radio.

Chooses "I ask you to hold a proper investigation into the incident and a proper trial for Odai and let God be with those whom you choose to say the fair verdict according to the law, in a way that expresses justice and satisfies God and the community," Saddam told Al Douri.

Saddam said his bodyguard and servant, Kamel Hana Gegeo, died on Oct 19 after Odai hit him with a stick the previous day.

The President said that according to relatives and friends of the victim, his son aimed the blow at the servant's shoulders. But the victim moved and the stick hit his head.

South Africa approves peace plan

PRETORIA, Nov 22, (Reuters): South Africa said today it approved a US-mediated peace plan for Angola and Namibia seen as a breakthrough to solving decades of conflict in Southwestern Africa.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha announced Pretoria's approval of the plan, centred on a withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola, which has already been endorsed by Angola and Cuba.

"This means that the hard nut that had to be cracked has been cracked," Botha told a Pretoria news conference.

Botha added: "A major and very important step has been taken on a long, long road."

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For more information, please contact our representative in Kuwait.

British shows win three Emmys

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (UPI): British shows won three of the five international Emmy awards last night in ceremonies that presented special honours to Latin American broadcast pioneer Goar Mestre and Italian director Vittorio Boni.

Fifteen of the shows were nominated in five categories: drama, performing arts, popular arts, documentaries and children and young people.

Mestre, the Argentinian broadcaster born in Cuba, was honoured with the Special Founder's Award, and the Special Directorate Award was presented posthumously to Boni, who died last year.

The drama award went to the United Kingdom for "A Very British Coup" by Skreba Films.

Channel 4 television. "A South Bank Show — Ken Russell's ABC of British Music" by London Weekend Television, LWT, won the Performing Arts category.

Award

Britain also won the Popular Arts Award, for "The New Statesman" by Yorkshire TV.

The documentary award went to Tros Television in association with BRT Belgian TV and Ava Belgium-Holland for "The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank."

Arafat and Mubarak hold marathon round of talks

US urged to take a progressive step

CAIRO, Nov 22, (Agencies): President Hosni Mubarak and PLO leader Yasser Arafat have urged the United States to take what Arafat called a "progressive step" in response to the PLO's acceptance of UN resolutions that include an implicit recognition of Israel.

But the two conceded this will take time, with Mubarak warning that all parties must make "sacrifices and concessions."

Mubarak and Arafat spoke to reporters after a marathon round of talks last night focusing on the Arabs' next move following the PLO's proclamation of an independent Palestinian state.

Arafat said they discussed "future moves to give a strong push to the peace effort" in the direction of the Arabs' common goal — an international conference to lay down the foundations of a Middle East peace settlement.

Arafat was asked by a reporter whether he detected a change in the US position after the Palestinian National Council issued a declaration in Algiers accepting the Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338, Resolution 242 of 1967 sanctions Israel's

right to survival within secure and recognised boundaries while Resolution 338, issued in 1973, calls for an international peace conference.

"No change until now," Arafat replied. "But we will have to work very hard and hope for a progressive step."

Mubarak advised Israel to be careful in its reaction to Egypt's recognition of the newly established Palestinian state.

"Israel should be precise in its statements and should know that we also want peace..." Mubarak said.

Arafat and top aides are expected to confer with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid to chart a joint approach to Middle East peace.

Recognition
Nigeria, Kampuchea and Laos today announced they had recognised the Palestinian state. A senior aide to Arafat was quoted today as saying he expected more than 100 nations to recognise the Palestinian state.

"The independent Palestinian state will enjoy more recognition than Israel does," Bassam Abu Sharif told the Abu Dhabi-based daily Al Wahdah.

"While intensifying the uprising, the PLO will step up political activity...to ensure factors for an effective international peace conference," Abu Sharif said.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was quoted today as saying Israel was blocking efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Israel's obstinacy has foiled all international efforts to reach a solution to the Middle East crisis," Rajiv told a Syrian daily.

Troops shot and wounded eight Palestinians in the occupied territories today after hundreds of Arabs took to the streets in a pro-independence march and youths hurled rocks at soldiers.

Arab reports and hospital officials said.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, troops opened fire when hundreds of marchers raised banned Palestinian flags to support the declaration of the independent Palestinian state, an Arab reporter said.

Three people were wounded, two women aged 18 and 28 and a 90-year-old man, said officials at Al Irtihad and St. John's Hospitals in Nablus. They said all three were shot in the arms or legs.

The Arab reporter said some of the marchers carried a banner declaring: "The Palestine National Council's decisions are an absolute support to the intifada."

In the Gaza Strip, five Palestinian teen-agers were shot by troops during stone-throwing confrontations in three refugee camps, hospital officials said.

The youngest of the wounded was a 13-year-old shot in the left thigh in Khan Yunis refugee camp, said an official at Nasser Hospital. Troops opened fire in the camp after being stoned by dozens of youngsters, an Arab reporter said.

Four other youths, all aged 15 and 16, also were shot in that confrontation and similar clashes in the Shati and Jabaliya refugee camps near Gaza City, hospital officials said.

In another development today, Maj. Gen. Amrur Mitza, military commander of the West Bank, ordered a "thorough investigation" of an incident in which soldiers rampaged through the Kalandia refugee camp north of Jerusalem and broke windows after their bus was stoned by youths.

Many hurt in Khartoum clashes

KHARTOUM, Nov 22, (Reuters): Scores of people were injured in clashes in central Khartoum today between southern Sudanese and thousands of Muslim militants protesting about a peace accord which could end five years of civil war.

Police used tear gas and fired in the air to break up battles between rival groups hurling stones at each other, witnesses said.

Groups of Muslim militants shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) launched several attacks on southerners near the Khartoum office for the southern Upper Nile region, they said.

One witness said the guard at the home of a southern cabinet minister fired on militants as they approached the house in central Khartoum and several of them were injured.

Surrender
The militants belonged to the National Islamic Front (NIF), third largest partner in Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's coalition government.

The NIF has described as surrender a peace accord signed in Addis Ababa last week by Sudan's co-ruling Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

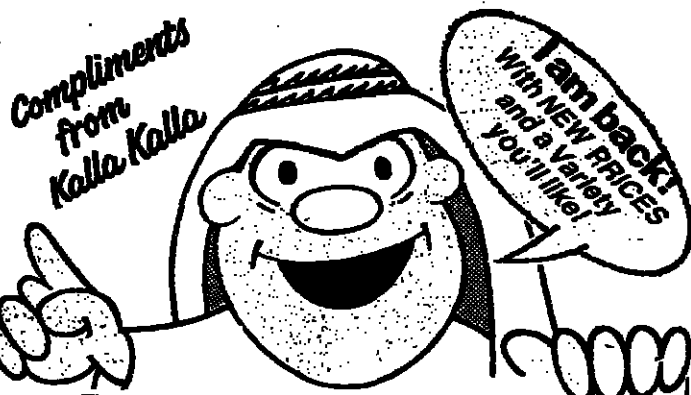
Witnesses said the NIF members were also protesting at a missile attack on a transport aircraft carrying Defence Minister Abdul Maged Hamed Khalil and Sudan's Commander-in-Chief Fathi Ahmed Ali.

Mahdi and the military accused the SPLA of firing the missile at the aircraft just after it took off from the southern town of Wau last Thursday, but the rebels denied responsibility. No one was hurt in the attack.

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Iraq, Iran expand health care

GENEVA, Nov 22, (AP): Iraq and Iran have expanded health care for their citizens even during their eight-year war and child mortality is falling in both countries, the head of the UN Children's Fund said today.

The official, UNICEF executive director James Grant, was due to start tomorrow a six-day visit to Iraq and Iran to offer the agency's help in reconstruction efforts following the Gulf war ceasefire announced last August.

UNICEF said it plans to aid both governments equip rural health posts in war-damaged areas. Health and medical supplies worth a total of \$400,000 are due to arrive in each capital within two weeks, a UNICEF announcement said.

Tour

Grant, an American, will meet top officials in Tehran and Baghdad and tour war-affected provinces, the announcement said.

"Despite the war, these two countries have done very impressive things in providing health care for their children," Grant said in the announcement. "Both have made exemplary progress in expanding their health networks over the past several years."

"We are seeing child mortality rates plummet in both countries," he said.

Vaccine coverage of children and protection against life-threatening dehydration due to diarrhoea has risen to "enviable levels," he said.

Grant will be in Iran through Friday and in Iraq until Monday.

UN chief taking charge of some peace-making activities

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 22, (Reuters): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is taking personal charge of some peace-making activities in Afghanistan, the Middle East and Cyprus formerly carried out by his principal British aide, the UN announced on Monday.

A spokeswoman said the move, which would shift some responsibilities from Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, a former British ambassador, was part of structural changes in the UN secretariat.

She said it was made in response to increasing demand for the secretary-general's good offices in the maintenance of international peace and security and for UN peace-keeping operations.

Goulding heads the Office of

Special Political Affairs (OSPA), which had a second under-secretary-general, Diego Cordovez, until he resigned earlier this year to become foreign minister of Ecuador. Cordovez remains the secretary-general's special representative for Afghanistan.

Involved

The OSPA's responsibilities for supporting the secretary-general in his peace-making activities in Afghanistan, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Cyprus and certain other situations are being transferred to the secretary-general's executive office, the announcement said.

Perez de Cuellar wants these activities handled under his direct, personal supervision. Certain staff members will be reassigned from Goulding's

office in the near future.

Goulding will be responsible for the conduct of all existing peace-keeping operations, except the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), and for the planning and conduct of future peace-keeping operations.

Although not mentioned in the announcement, the United Nations could soon be involved in the biggest such operation for many years if a long-delayed independence plan for the South African-ruled territory of Namibia is implemented.

Talks under US auspices recently reached tentative agreement on a timetable for the withdrawal of some 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola, which South Africa has made a condition for Namibian independence.

India's ties with Soviet Union and China bilateral: Rajiv

NEW DELHI, Nov 22, (UPI): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, following the weekend visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, has said India's relations with China have no bearing on Indian-Soviet ties, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Rajiv's statement in Parliament followed Gorbachev's Saturday advice that New Delhi and Beijing settle their longstanding disputes so the two Asian giants can work with Moscow in solving the problems of the region.

Analysts said Gorbachev's comments, coming only weeks in advance of Rajiv's scheduled visit to Beijing, were a clear message that Moscow plans to normalise relations with China.

Rajiv said that as far as relations between India and the Soviet Union are concerned, "China is unimportant," PTI said.

"Sino-Soviet and Sino-Indian relations are purely exclusive," the agency quoted Rajiv as saying. "There is no question of one being at the cost of the other or

tied with the other."

Legislators had demanded that Rajiv reveal details of his talks with Gorbachev who departed Sunday following a three-day visit that included two rounds of official discussions.

"The Soviet-Chinese talks on their border and the Indian-Chinese talks on our border were not discussed as such," Rajiv said. "The two situations are totally different and I don't think you can compare them."

A Sino-Indian rapprochement hinges on solving two protracted border disputes between the world's most populous nations. The two nations have been at odds since a brief 1962 war along their Himalayan border.

China holds 14,500 square miles (37,700 sq. km) of territory claimed by India in the remote Aksai Chin region of the western Himalayas. Beijing wants New Delhi to yield 56,000 square miles (145,600 sq. km) of Arunachal Pradesh state in the eastern Himalayas, claiming the region historically and culturally belongs to Tibet.

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Only Amir can decide on elections

KUWAIT, Nov 22, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad has said that the holding of parliamentary elections is solely the concern of HH the Amir.

In an interview with a local daily Sheikh Jaber Mubarak said, "We all believe that HH the Amir is the best one caring for the interests of Kuwait and its people, and based on this absolute confidence, such a matter (parliament) is a concern of the Amir."

Leading
Discussing the recent declaration of an independent Palestinian state, the information minister described the step taken by the PNC as a "leading national event". It was a natural outcome of the pain and sufferings inflicted by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, he said.

He affirmed that Kuwait upheld the resolutions of the Arab information ministers held recently in Baghdad which backs the nearly one-year-old Palestinian uprising.

He also said that Kuwait was one of the first countries to recognise the new born state, he said.

Sheikh Jaber Mubarak emphasized the dark shadows left by the eight-year-old Gulf war on the area's security and stability, as well as its economy and development.

The mass media have played an important role in spreading harmony and love among the people of the region, he said.

Discussing war-torn Lebanon, the minister again affirmed Kuwait's supportive stance to Lebanon's unity, saying that the best way to end the crisis is for the Lebanese to sit together and resolve their own problems.

He also hailed the role played by the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in strengthening ties among peoples of the six member states.

He added that information co-operation among the GCC states is based on strong grounds, noting that heads of Gulf news agencies and editors-in-chief of the newspapers and magazines co-ordinate their efforts to enhance the media production in these countries.

Regarding the GCC summit to be held in Bahrain next month, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak said the agenda for his high-level gathering will be finalised in the coming few days.

On the Arab front, he said that Kuwait stands alongside any joint Arab effort leading to the best for this nation. Kuwait will not hesitate to take part in the coming Arab summit.

Credibility
Locally, the minister saluted the Kuwaiti press and said that it earned credibility not only on the Gulf front, but also across the Arab world.

Speaking of the new press law, he said that it is currently subject to a slow and thorough examination, in which interests of the country and citizens are taken into account, especially those working in the publications field.

Sri Lankan brutally beaten

Abuse of maids increasing

By Fathima Ahmed

"I CAN'T think of any reason for anyone to beat me," said 22-year-old Sri Lankan maid Suseela Padmasell, the latest victim of maid bashing in Kuwait.

Severely beaten with a hose, her nose bleeding and hands and ears swollen, Suseela yesterday fled from her employer's home in Salamiya and took refuge in her embassy.

"I fled from the two-room flat and didn't know where to go. I was standing on the street and crying when a passer-by picked me up and brought me to the Sri Lankan embassy," she said yesterday, with a look of despair in her tearful eyes.

Bitten
She is the second such victim in as many weeks this month. Earlier this month, another maid sought refuge after her ear was bitten by her Egyptian employer.

"Brutal treatment of maids has increased in the last four to five years, simply because people not accustomed to hired help are employing maids," said one diplomat.

Apparently, hiring a maid has become fashionable and a status symbol. And beating maids, a pastime.

"Some of the present employers are here to eke out a living; they are not used to looking after the needs — physical and mental — of another human being, they (some employers) are maniacs," he explained.

Previously, incidents such as Suseela's, though not totally absent, were a rare occurrence. Molestation, however, has always been a dominant problem.

A victim of her Egyptian teacher employer, Suseela claims she has been tortured and beaten up for the last one and-a-half months. She arrived in Kuwait three months ago. Underfed, overworked and emaciated, she had been putting up with the severe beatings "because I have nowhere else to go."

Yesterday morning, she fled because "I could not take it any longer. She (the employer) came back from work and beat me up, but she never beat me before her husband," she said.

"I was fed only one meal a day — at 3 or 4 pm — each day; if I asked for more food, I was told to finish the work," she said.

Assault is a criminal offence in Kuwait. Over 10 severely beaten maids seek refuge at the Sri Lankan embassy each month. A similar number report rape and between 75 and 150 seek help to recover their dues. Non-payment of salary and beatings are also reported by Indian maids. Filipino domestics also face similar problems.

A majority of ill-treated Sri Lankan maids are "not allowed to correspond with their families back home."

"Employers fear they will be exposed," explained a diplomat.

Protection
"I need protection," cries Suseela. Suseela is not alone in making the plea. Other domestics have also made such appeals. Who should protect you Suseela? She shrugs her shoulders.

How do you want to be protected? She stares blankly. "Unfortunately, there is no law to protect domestic servants in Kuwait," said one diplomat.

Domestics come under the general law of the state and are given sympathetic treatment when their cases are referred to the police.

Legal action takes over a year, during which the maid is either the responsibility of the "agent" who hired her or the embassy.

The maid is sent to a doctor only after a police report is filed, and action against the employer is taken only after getting the medical report.

"There is an urgent need to review and regulate domestic employment," said another diplomat, who deals with similar cases.

Funds
Labour attaches at embassies claim they are "always ready to help our people."

But there are hurdles. For instance, when a maid leaves her employer's home, she has also left behind her passport with the employer. By fleeing, she has committed an offence.

"The act of fleeing from an employer is a misdemeanour, and a maid spoils her case by fleeing," explained a diplomat.

But if she doesn't leave her employer's home, how will she seek help? Ask the diplomats.

Eight of 10 maids who are brutally beaten up want to go back to their country or find employment in a better home.

If they want to return home, embassy officials can raise funds.



Suseela: victim of beating (Photo by Amer Jedid)

and provide travel documents. "We can provide travel documents for a one way journey but the maid can't leave the country unless she obtains an exit visa," explained a diplomat.

The Sri Lankan Minister of Labour, Joseph Michael Perera, who visited Kuwait in October, examined the problem of maids and "studied welfare schemes" for them.

He also broached the subject with the Kuwaiti authorities to "work out a system to protect domestic servants." The Sri Lankan government, diplomats in Kuwait say, is studying the possibility of regulating the export of maids.

"Due to more pressing problems in Sri Lanka, no concrete action has been taken," he said.

India recently imposed an indirect ban on the export of maids. The Philippines has also restricted their supply.

British linguist to visit Kuwait

DR LOUISA Sadler, a linguistics lecturer at Essex University, will visit Kuwait from Friday to Dec 1 to work on a research project with Dr Ali Fargaly from the English Department at Kuwait University.

During her visit, which is sponsored by Kuwait University and the British Council, she will hold a seminar on research in machine translation, at Kuwait University Club on at 6.00 pm, Monday.

This will be the second visit by a member of the Department of Linguistics at Essex University to Kuwait University, following Dr Douglas Arnold's visit last year.

Italy offers military expertise to UAE

ABU DHABI, Nov 22 (AP): Italian Defence Minister Valerio Zanone arrived today in the United Arab Emirates port city of Dubai and began military co-operation talks with his counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid.

The official Emirates news agency, WAM, said that Zanone expressed during the meeting "Italy's desire to expand existing frameworks of military co-operation with the UAE."

The Italian defence minister told Sheikh Mohammed, the son of the ruler of Dubai, that Italy is ready to offer the UAE its technical military expertise.

The meeting also dealt with means of cementing peace in the Gulf region after the United Nations-sponsored cease-fire which halted eight years of hostilities between Iran and Iraq on Aug 20.

"Peace in the Gulf region is vital for international peace due to the interwoven interests of countries of the region and the rest of the world," WAM quoted Sheikh Mohammed as telling Zanone.

The UAE defence minister accepted an invitation from Zanone to visit Italy at a date to be fixed later, WAM said.

Zanone was scheduled to visit Abu Dhabi, where he will thank the government for services rendered to the Italian forces in the Gulf.

The main purpose of his visit was to inspect the Italian contingent preparing to end its assignment in the Gulf at the end of the year, in the light of the Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

Rome decided earlier this month to withdraw its contingent which includes five units — two frigates, two minehunters and one supply ship.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Food production up

BAHRAIN'S food production has gone up, but farmers should invest in modern equipment, according to Hassan Abdul Karim, the director of farmer service at the Ministry of Agriculture.

He said that Bahrain is nearing the end of a six-year agricultural plan and the government is pleased with what has been achieved. He explained that although the island could aim to become self-sufficient in some foodstuffs, total self-sufficiency is an impossible dream.

"One hundred per cent self-sufficiency is something we cannot reach because there are so many factors against it such as the availability of land and water," said Karim.

The government has invested BD5 million into irrigation projects aimed at reclaiming 1,700 hectares of land for agricultural projects.

According to Jaffer Habib, director of projects at the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture, farmers are hesitant to use modern equipment.

Conference planned

THE second Arab Regional Conference and Energy Law Seminar will be held at the Sheraton Hotel March 5-8.

The conference, organised by the International Bar Association's (IBA) section on energy and natural resources law, will be open to both IBA and non-IBA members.

The IBA is the world's foremost international association of lawyers. Its main aims are to encourage the discussion of problems relating to professional organisations and to promote an exchange of information between legal associations worldwide.

Every two years a major conference is held in which all three sections of the IBA participate. The Arab Regional Committee was formed following the success of the IBA's first Arab Regional Conference and Energy Law Seminar, held in Cairo in 1987.

Schools to get air-conditioning

AS PER directives of HH the Amir, plans are under way at the Ministries of Education, Housing, Electricity and Water and Planning to provide schools with air-conditioning systems.

Al Rai Al Aam newspaper quoted Abdul Aziz Al Jarallah, assistant undersecretary for financial affairs at the Ministry of Education as saying that representatives from the Ministries of Public Works, Electricity and Water and Planning are working to implement the Amir's directives.

Cost
The cost of the project will be established at meetings scheduled over the coming days. Air-conditioning will be provided first to elementary schools then to intermediate schools and finally secondary schools the official said.

Student sentenced to 5 years

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a university student to five years of rigorous imprisonment for having illicit relations with a teenage girl.

The court was told that the student visited the girl's house in the mornings when her mother and father went to work. The girl and two young children were left at home.

On one occasion, the father of the girl tried to phone the house to enquire about the children but found the line continually busy. Worried, he rushed to the house and became suspicious when he found a pair of strange shoes.

The court was further informed that a search of the premises revealed the youth hiding in the balcony. The boy was taken to the police station.

UAE signs arms deal with France

ABU DHABI, Nov 22, (AP): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has signed a military deal with France to purchase Crotale surface-to-air missiles, a senior UAE Army officer said Monday.

Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed, deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces and Abu Dhabi Emirate Crown Prince, announced the agreement at a meeting today with senior Army officers.

No details on the value or size of the deal were given in the report that the official news agency WAM distributed. Unspecified quantities of Crotales are already part of the UAE air defence system.

The deal coincided with the visit of the French Air Force Commander-General Achille Lerche, who met Sheikh Khalifa Monday and discussed military co-operation.

The UAE in the past two days hosted three European military envoys, including Italian Defence Minister Valerio Zanone and British Defence Minister George Younger.

Sources close to the meeting refused to comment on the connection between the visit of Lerche and the long delayed UAE purchase of 36 French-made Mirage 2000 jet fighters.

Airport hotline between Iran and Dubai

ABU DHABI, Nov 22, (Reuters): Iran and Dubai are installing an airport hotline in the wake of the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus by the US Navy in which 290 people were killed.

The link between Bandar Abbas in southern Iran and Dubai on the west of the Gulf will help to ensure safe flights, Mohammed Yehya Al-Suwaidi, assistant-undersecretary at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Communications Ministry, said yesterday.

The Airbus was shot down on July 3 by the US cruiser Vincennes soon after taking off from Bandar Abbas for Dubai. The US Navy said the passenger aircraft was mistaken for a hostile Iranian fighter.

Officials from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) visited Iran and the UAE in August to investigate the disaster and recommended more co-ordination between airports in the two countries.

Contract signed
KUWAIT, Nov 22, (KUNA): The Minister of Electricity and Water, Homoud Al Rqobah, today signed a KD8.7 million contract with a national company to build 100 secondary electrical transformer stations.

Kuwaiti businesswomen make it in a man's world

KUWAIT, Nov 22, (Reuters): Khalida Al Qatami and Muna Al Khonaini are used to shocking men at home and abroad.

Dynamic, highly educated and successful in business in Kuwait, they hardly fit the stereotype of tucked-away Muslim wives.

As directors of a local trading firm, they are part of a growing elite forging new paths for women in this conservative Islamic state revolutionised by oil wealth.

"In the Gulf, Kuwait is number one in terms of opportunities for women," says Khalida, a glamorous 42, in her office near Kuwait's Al Shuwaikh Port.

As in other traditional Islamic societies, unrelated men and women rarely mix. Women do not smoke in public and arranged marriages are still common.

But Kuwaiti women, freed from household chores by their country's tremendous oil wealth, are clamouring for work and education. They appear to find more money, greater personal fulfilment and less resistance in private business.

"Not only are the wages higher, but the ladder for accelerating is faster in the private sector than in the civil service," says Reem Al Ghunaim, herself president and founder-owner of a firm which imports chemicals.

Muna and Khalida both represent their fathers on the board of Al Khonaini Al Qatami Trading and Contracting Co, which imports yachts, machinery and home furnishings. It was a natural job for both.

"My father has no boys and eight daughters," said Khalida.

"When I left the Ministry of Health in 1982, he insisted I come to the company to at least share in management and planning."

All seven of her sisters have university degrees. Five are also in business. Alia runs a silver boutique, Yusra and Wafaa are bankers, and Abiya and Maha handle portfolios for the Kuwait Investment Authority and the Kuwait International Investment Corp.

Independence
Muna, 31, grew up listening to her father's business conversations and developed a passion for commerce. Secretarial shifts in a ministry were not for her. "I want to take charge, to direct, to sign. I want to feel a sense of freedom and independence," she says, dressed in slacks and a T-shirt.

Such ambitions would have been difficult to realise here only 10 years ago, and still are in most Gulf Arab states.

Saudi Arabia has banned women from driving and strictly segregates the sexes, making business contact difficult except by telephone.

Even in Kuwait, women are by law unable to become ministers or vote for the now-suspended parliament. The highest ranking females are assistant under-secretaries. Custom bars them from becoming diplomats, judges or prosecutors.

But Kuwait's early start in oil production in the 1940s and history of contact with more liberal societies have enabled its women to march into the workplace since the first got university degrees in Cairo in the 1950s.

Women formed 20 per cent of the Kuwaiti labour force in 1985,

the latest available official figures, up from 8 per cent in 1975. Forty-one per cent of Kuwaiti university degree holders are women.

During a recent literacy campaign, 87 per cent of the enrolled women passed, but only 72 per cent of the men. "Women are more keen to learn," says Badriya Al Awadhi, a former Kuwaiti university law professor.

"Men have more opportunities to go into business. The women find they have nothing to do so they want more education."

The most popular women's businesses are small boutiques and workshops, especially for clothing and jewellery.

Reem Al Ghunaim admits that jobs like hers are not for every woman — she was born to a liberal father and a well-known merchant family.

But as education spreads, so will female employment, especially in a country with only 700,000 citizens that is trying to cut dependence on foreign labour.

Efficient
Few say male colleagues treat them badly. "When I started business I thought I would find a lot of problems with men degrading me. But once women prove themselves as efficient and hard working you have the green light," said the no-nonsense, California-educated Ghunaim.

Like most Kuwaiti women, working or not, Reem employs a couple of Asian maids to care for her two daughters and sees no problem combining the responsibilities of boss and mother.

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By Gail Seery

I SUPPOSE we all make mistakes. Backstage is an enormous mistake made by a surprising amount of people. This mistake was put together by no less than two associate producers, three executive producers, one co-producer and a producer. This is a film where the number of producers is only beaten by the number of clichés.

There is also a musical consultant for this film, Laura Branigan. I feel that she should be forgiven for this, because her sins in her role as Kate Lawrence are so very much greater. This is the equivalent of letting the mass murderer off the charge of double parking.

Backstage is a story about a rock star, Laura Branigan, who

VIDEO CORNER

A big, big mistake

wants to become an actress, despite the fact that she is about to start a twelve-month tour of America. She throws all this up to go to Australia to act in the "The Green Year Passes," a tremendously worthless piece of rubbish. Her agent isn't altogether overjoyed at this, but lets her go ahead. She is disappointed that there is only one script to read — I think it was a miracle that there were any.

What happens? Well naturally, the rock singer is underestimated, proves to have a heart of gold, becomes dearly

loved by all members of cast except the awful ones, and goes on to become a great actress.

Anyway, to backtrack on Backstage, Kate Lawrence goes to a press conference in Australia where she is attacked by Robert Landau, a theatre critic who is seen to have more problems than the rest of the cast put together. Not surprisingly, given the level of ingenuity behind the rest of the plot, he and Kate fall in love, he teaches her to act, and she lands the part of Lena in The Seagull.

All the way through the film, the actors declaim their lines in stilted, loud and silly voices which only change when they are "on stage" — then they become even louder, more stilted and sillier. The whole effect is totally saccharine.

Roxanne was something of a vehicle for Steve Martin, and Wise Guys performed much the same function for Danny de Vito, and alas, it also has to be said that Backstage was certainly intended as a vehicle for Laura Branigan. The difference of course is that Steve Martin and Danny de Vito deserve transport. Backstage as a vehicle for Branigan is the equivalent of an ant riding in a clapped out Skoda.

She can't act. OK, she can't act when she's acting Kate Lawrence on stage, but she can't act when she's acting the character offstage either. She is the only film actress I have noted who almost allows you to hear the director's instructions — "take two steps, pause, then turn around and walk to the

table"; everything is wooden, from start to finish.

The play is over, she is going back to America, and she and Robert have to decide whether to stay together or part. She has made him write the words to a song, which she then performs in the allegedly sleazy bar he haunts. If he wrote the words then she deserves him. He gets up and walks away, obviously unable to take the disclosure that the woman who is wooden as an actor is also wooden as a singer.

Everything goes quiet once she gets back to America. Her agent gets her a part in The Seagull — the film doesn't seem interested in the fact that as he almost certainly would be working on a percentage of earnings basis, he couldn't possibly allow her to accept an acting part as an unknown. However, Robert has disappeared and she is worried about him. Guess what, after her enormous stage triumph, there he is waiting in the wings. Fortunately the film ends here, giving you a chance to rush off and be sick.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Dabdoob Al Mustaqar: Cartoon serial
9.45 World News via Satellite
10.00 Quloob Al Baidah: Arabic serial. Starring: Anwar Ismail, Hala Sudqi, Ahmad Maree.
10.45 Good Morning
11.00 Zawaj Bil Computer.
12.00 News Summary
12.15 Variety Show
1.05 Holy Quran/closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Ra'ad Al Amlaq: cartoons

5.15 Tum Tek and Children
5.30 Eureka
6.00 Islam Wal Insan: historical serial.
7.00 News Summary
7.30 You and Your Health
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.55 Makan Fi Al Qalb: Arabic serial.
10.45 Focus on Arab theatre
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran/closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 My Pet Monster.
6.30 Wonderstruck: telephone contact in outerspace; a look at a mechanical arm;

and how paper is produced
7.00 Pals: Oscar and Sammy go on another new adventure
7.30 Growing Pains:
8.00 News in English
8.40 Probe: James and Castle solve a case of mistaken identity
9.30 The Secret World: What's Happening Now.
10.00 Fortune Dane: "Bay City." Mayor Amanda asks Fortune Dane to clean Bay City
11.30 News Summary
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

A comic treat

By Shaun Seekins

THIS week sees the release of two Anglo-American comedies, *A Fish Called Wanda* and *Consuming Passions*. The two films have a kind of link in the sense that Michael Palin acted in the former and wrote the original story for the latter in collaboration with Terry Jones. That is where the comparison ends. *Wanda* is a comic treat in the best tradition of the Ealing studios, whereas *Consuming Passions* resembles a couple of rejected Monty Python sketches from the 1960's and now resuscitated on the strength of the writer's subsequent fame and fortune.

A Fish Called Wanda was reviewed earlier this week, so I will refrain from a repetition of the story, suffice it to say that it is a marvellous film which sends the Brits up beautifully, whilst casting a baleful light on the Americans.

Consuming Passions is set in a timeless Northern Britain, where people say both "groovy" and "okay yah" and a Morris Minor nestles alongside a Porsche in the executive car park. Hopeful management trainee (Tyler Butterworth) arrives to take up a new job at Chumley's Chocolates. After accidentally depositing three workers in the factory vat (thereby, unwittingly, creating a taste sensation), Ian rises and rises up the corporate ladder. The chocolates inevitably need more body so Ian's life becomes a dizzy round of collecting disposable corpses and looking after the less-than-grieving widow (Vanessa Redgrave) of one of the ex-workers.

Licence To Drive is a new American teenage comedy which concentrates on the fanatical desire of a 16-year-old boy to get his licence by any means so that he can impress the girl he fancies.

Publicity can be either a good or a dangerous thing as country inn owner Michael (James

Brolin) finds out in *Intimate Betrayal*. He and his wife Julie Anne refurbish the place, and his picture gets into a glossy magazine, which sets off a dangerous train of events. An unwelcome face from the past visits the inn, sending Michael dashing off in his car and crashing into a river. Julie Ann has let her husband take care of business and when she thinks he's dead has to confront some grim realities including poverty. If that's not enough, her husband has a room in a city hotel for liaisons with a woman and has an illegitimate child. An exciting climax adds up to a very suspenseful thriller.

Talking of suspense, one of the best recent films to have you on the edge of your seat is *The People Across the Lake*. When a young couple decide to forsake the urban life for a beautiful house on the shores of Tomahawk Lake they little realise that the countryside can be more dangerous than the city.

Stacking stars Frederick Forrest and is an American Mid-west drama in the tradition of *Country and The River*. High Mountains Rangers gets away from the plains and tells how the Wild West still exists in this part of America. *Grotesque* is a new horror film starring Linda Blair, plenty of frights for all.

The *Rescue* tells the improbable story of how five teenagers set off to rescue their fathers who have been captured behind North Korean lines during the war.

American Football is available with the Saints vs Chargers and the first Basketball Match of the season has arrived.

Neighbours has just started and Eastenders continues. Two new British comedy series have started, *Allo Allo* and *Double First*. So something for everyone this week including a new bestseller *Act of Betrayal*.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fintona/Parwanis; Video Naut, Tel: 2432808; Video Club, 574372.

Industry auditorium.

NOV 22: "The Theme", directed by Glib Panfilov; starring Mikhail Ulyanov, Inna Churikova.
NOV 23: "Choice", directed by Vladimir Naumov; starring: Natalia Belokhvostikova, Mikhail Ulyanov.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn
Every Wednesday, Shahrzad barbecue by the poolside, 8 pm; enjoy BBQ and join in games on the upper deck; plus interesting videos.
NOV 24: Thanksgiving party at Al Dana, 8.30 pm.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

Daniella
All Danes are invited to the annual children's party on Dec 16, 3 pm, at the Gazelle club. For reservations phone Marianne — 3710214 ext. 29; Lizzy — 3710478 before Dec 5.

CINEMA

Aspects of Modern Soviet Cinema
All films listed below are screened at 7.30 pm at the Chambers of Commerce and

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Razi St.
Fahad and Almad
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Abdullah Rabaea Complex, F'heel
Jleeb Al Shiyooh
Al Hassawia Pharmacy
Block 3, Main St.
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
opp. Co-operative Society

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
The Last Hunter
Starring: David Warrick, Tessa Farrow
Al Salmiya
Haunted Honeymoon
Starring: Gilda Radner, Johnny Wilder
Al Hamra
Vigilante
Starring: Fred Williamson
Drive-in
Malaf Samiya Sharawi (Arabic)
Starring: Nadiya Al Jundi, Farouk, Fishawi, Kamal Shionan
Al Firdous
Ram Avtar (Hindi)
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol
Fahad Open-Air
Sone Pe Subagaa (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Ayyam Fi London (Arabic)
Al Jahra
Night of the Creeps
Grassada
Kul Hada Al Hub (Arabic)
Salaikhast
Mukundetta Sumitra Vilikunnu (Malayalam)
Al Jleeb
Southern Comfort
Almad Drive-In
Arbaab Sawabq (Arabic)

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Asr	2.31 pm
Maghreb	4.50
Isha	6.11

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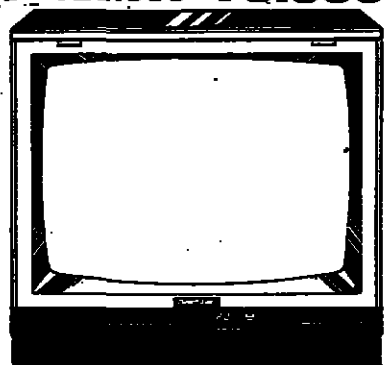
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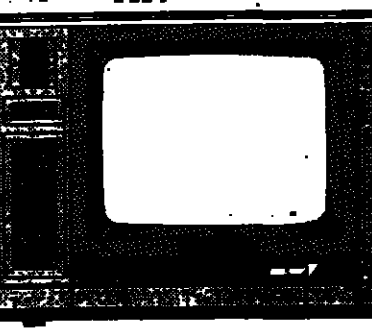


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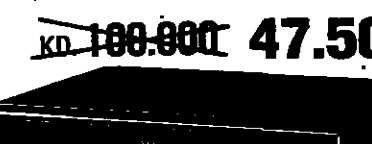


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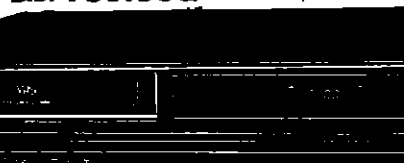


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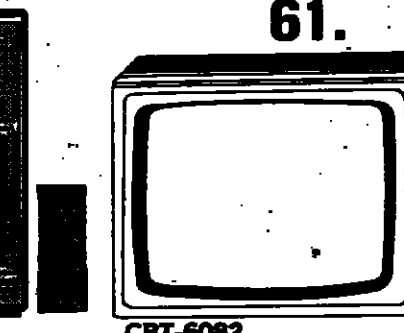
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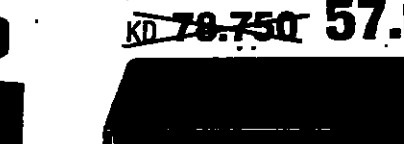


GHV-1246
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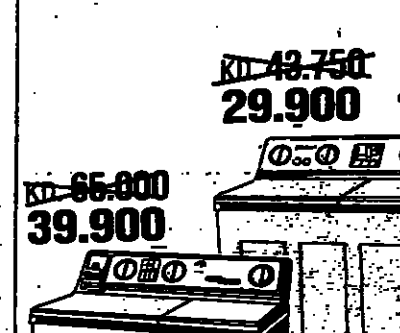
VCP-4200
• Video cassette player • Pal/Secam • Remote control • Automatic repeat function permits continuous replay of tape • Automatic power on function with cassette insertion • Operator with car Battery

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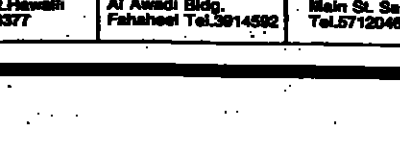
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مركز الإلكتروني

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it — Anonymous.

Islamisation bill

Ershad angered the left and right

By Sheila Teff

DHAKA: Several months after Bangladesh's Parliament declared Islam as the state religion, the effects of the policy remain ambiguous. The main steps so far include vague calls for compulsory religious education and setting up a commission to "Islamise" the nation's culture.

But the political debate over President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's designation of Islam as the state religion has not died down. In pushing the bill, Ershad angered both the political left and right, and appeared to be borrowing a page from the book of another South Asian strong man — the late President of Pakistan, Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq. Under the mantle of forging an Islamic society, Zia had focused on refashioning the economy and the inherited Western legal code according to Quranic law (sharia).

Ershad's critics draw a parallel with Zia's efforts to undercut his main rival, Benazir Bhutto. Like his counterpart, they say, Ershad is using religion as a political initiative to quiet his fractious political opposition, which is dominated by two women leaders.

Blocking
Women's rights activists charge that Ershad's programme is aimed at blocking democratic reforms and barring from office Sheikh Hasina Wajed, daughter of the country's assassinated first president, and Begum Khaleda Zia, widow of a slain military ruler.

Yet, the parallels with Pakistan likely will stop there. For one thing, Ershad, who took power in a coup six years ago, appears to lack the religious zeal and credibility which Zia used to appeal to Pakistan's conservative Muslims.

Even among those who favour sharia, Ershad's programme has its detractors. "General Ershad is not committed to the Islamic state the way Zia was," says Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, an official with the fundamentalist party, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh.

Hong Kong trying to break bonds of vice
By David Schlesinger

HONG KONG, (Reuters): In an intense-filled room 20 years ago, the elders of a Triad secret society sacrificed a chicken, swore a score of oaths and placed a sword on Ah-Ping's back to make the teenager a member of the Hong Kong underworld.

"It was just like the queen of England making a knight," Ah-Ping said recently. "It meant I was bound to my big brother (boss) and we would be together until death. I respected him and would lay down my life for him."

The Hong Kong government hopes to use an equally solemn ceremony to give Triad members the chance to break their bonds of brotherhood and loyalty with the crime gangs.

Under a scheme scheduled to start in December in the British colony, a special confidential tribunal can give Triad members an "oath of renunciation".

Their taking the oath will be a secret even from the police. But going through the process means the government will not prosecute them for being a Triad member.

Hong Kong's Triads trace their origins to secret patriotic societies founded in 17th century China in an attempt to overthrow Qing dynasty rulers, regarded as alien as they came from Manchuria, and restore the Ming dynasty.

But they soon shed their patriotism and became involved in blackmail, drug dealing, gambling, vice, loansharking and protection schemes.

Another key factor, observers say, is that Bangladeshis practise a more laid-back Islam in which extremes are not likely to gain favour.

"Ershad scored a political win by isolating his opposition," says an Asian diplomat in Dhaka. "But the people here are laissez-faire Muslims. Islamisation won't be as effective as in Pakistan."

Hindus, Christians, and other minority groups who grouped together to oppose the bill, however, say they fear persecution by the Muslim majority. Mullahs, Muslim religious leaders, are powerful in the villages and could impose a more strident brand of Islam in the countryside. "There are fears that Islamisation will bring new persecution," says a Western Christian missionary working here.

Opposition
Like much of the Muslim world, Bangladesh has been influenced by Islamic fundamentalism that grew out of Iran's 1979 revolution. Also, thousands of Bangladeshis lured to the Middle East by the oil boom of the late 1970s have returned home with new ideas about the role of Islam in society.

Ershad's plan also has drawn stiff opposition from women's groups who oppose uranic measures, such as allowing men to take more than one wife, that they say would demote women to a second-class status.

But the fears of widespread persecution of minorities have not been borne out. About 20 per cent of Bangladesh's 110 million people are Hindus, compared to less than five per cent in Pakistan. Pakistan, which once included what is now Bangladesh, was founded as an Islamic homeland for the subcontinent's Muslims when British-ruled India was partitioned in 1947. After the 1971 war of independence, Bangladesh became a secular state.

The government later incorporated Islamic measures into the constitution, but stopped short of declaring Islam the state religion.

The Christian Science Monitor.

and transport companies, and in house decoration, in addition to the gangsters running restaurants, dance halls, night clubs and brothels.

"It would shock you the high class businesses they are involved in," said former member Ah-Ping.

The government hopes the renunciation scheme will deprive the Triads of one source of their power — their membership.

"There are about 100,000 Triad members in Hong Kong but we estimate only 10 to 15 per cent are active," said chief superintendent Dennis Collins of the Hong Kong police.

"What we must do is give them the opportunity of breaking their bonds."

Police say there are about 50 Triad societies in Hong Kong but only 15 are active. Some of the most powerful are the Sun Yee On, 14K, Wo On Lok and Wo Sing Wo, and for their members the society represents their whole life.

The Triads recruit members from overshadowed, squalid districts in Hong Kong, where 5.5 million people are crammed into some of the most densely populated areas on earth.

US expects strong ties with Pakistan to continue

By Carol Giacomo

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The United States, which was closely allied with Pakistan's late President Zia-ul-Haq, expects continued strong relations with Islamabad if opposition leader Benazir Bhutto becomes prime minister.

US officials and analysts see considerable common ground with Benazir, especially on the crucial issue of Afghanistan.

Benazir who claimed victory after Wednesday's election, said on Friday she was confident Pakistan's most senior military officer would accept her as prime minister and that she expected to be asked to form a government soon.

The military has ruled Pakistan for more than half its 41-year history and its views will be

decisive if Benazir is to form a government.

The Reagan administration applauded the election as an impressive and important step towards strengthening democracy in Pakistan. It said little more, apparently waiting until it was certain which party would govern.

Warm
But if Benazir does emerge victorious "all indications are we will continue to have a warm and fruitful relationship," a US official told Reuters.

There had been concern in Washington about anti-American sentiments in Benazir's past and in her Pakistan People's Party, but the US administration is encouraged by her repeated assurances that she will work to strengthen ties between the two countries, he added.

He and other officials say the 35-year-old graduate of Radcliffe, now part of Harvard, and Oxford has changed from her younger days and proved to be a realistic, capable and rather moderate politician.

Over the last three or four years, Benazir has frequently visited Washington to meet US officials and assure them they should not fear her ascension to power, one analyst said.

Optimistic
Representative Stephen Solarz, a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was also optimistic.

"The apparent results of the election, which appear to have been fair and free, is to lay a firmer foundation for Pakistan-American relations and for greater stability in that nation," the New York Democrat said.

Many US officials and analysts were surprised the election went as well it did.

Zia was killed in a mysterious plane crash last Aug 17 that took the life of US ambassador Arnold Rafael and 28 others.

Zia was Benazir's adversary. He ousted her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1977 as prime minister and later executed him.

Relations between the United States and Pakistan, which were strained in the 1970s, prospered after the Soviet Union dispatched troops to neighbouring Afghanistan in 1979.

Contact
Washington sent weapons to Pakistan and Zia proved a loyal ally, serving as the conduit for US aid to mujahideen rebels fighting Soviet troops and their allies in Afghanistan.

US officials, who were in contact with Benazir before the elec-

tion, seem convinced she will continue that policy.

Selig Harrison, a senior associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who met Benazir in Karachi last June, told Reuters US-Pakistan ties under her rule could even be better than under Zia.

This would be due in part to the fact that Benazir is more flexible than her predecessor on a new government in Kabul, he said.

Refugees
Zia had insisted on an Islamic fundamentalist government to succeed the communists and argued Afghan refugees could not return to Afghanistan until it was in place.

Benazir, by contrast, has no such demand, seeking only stable, representative government, he said.

"She doesn't favour a communist regime nor would she

favour cutting aid to the resistance before the Soviets withdraw," but is eager to have the refugees return home, he added.

Harrison also says that Benazir is less determined to forge ahead with nuclear arms development in Pakistan, something that has greatly worried Congress and prompted lawmakers to try to cut US aid to Pakistan, targeted at \$4 billion in 1987-88.

But US officials and other analysts say her position is unclear and add that there is considerable political momentum in Pakistan to keep the programme moving forward.

Nevertheless, most experts see Benazir's major challenge to be running a stable government, coping with her country's debt, working with the military and getting services to her poor constituents — not foreign policy.



Moscow seeks meaningful role in Middle East

By Gerald Nadler

MOSCOW, (UPI): The Soviet recognition on Friday of the PLO proclamation of the Palestinian state is significant to a number of Moscow's goals in the Middle East.

Recognition
The PLO, in conjunction with declaring an independent state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, also gave implicit recognition to Israel this week in a move to persuade Washington to pressure Israel to attend such a conference.

A conference under UN auspices would include the five permanent Security Council members — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France and China. And Bessmertnykh stressed: "The United Nations, the Security Council and all its permanent members have an especially great role to play in this."

The Soviet Union became the first major power to recognise the Palestinian proclamation, following the action of more than 20 Arab and non-aligned nations.

The PLO moves this week came amid a shifting scenario in the Middle East with President-elect George Bush preparing to take power in the United States.

Yitzhak Shamir has firmly resisted Secretary of State George Schultz's proposal for an international conference to solve the four-decade-old Arab-Israeli feud.

Relations
The Soviets broke relations with Israel after the 1967 Middle East war but Gorbachev has moved Moscow toward mending ties, in part because Israel has said it will not sit at an international conference with any country that does not have diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

An Israeli diplomatic delegation has been in Moscow for five months, and a Soviet consular delegation has been in Tel Aviv about a year.

Gorbachev has said he would re-establish diplomatic relations with the Jewish state on the first day of a Middle East peace conference.

The Soviets have also pushed the Arab side toward the Middle East conference table.

The Soviets have nudged Syria, a key player, to change its stance. Damascus has long opposed sitting at a peace table with Israel.

and Shamir manoeuvring to form a new Israeli government which is likely to be more hawkish. Gorbachev has also scheduled a summit with President Reagan and Bush next month in New York where the Middle East could be a major topic.

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Attacks
The admiration of the Yugoslavs for Tito's exuberance has turned into anger against the shiny black limousines used by top communist officials. The press carries constant attacks on corruption and privileges.

The inflation rate is the highest in Europe. Many basic foodstuffs tripled in price over the past year, while the maximum annual pay rise allowed today is 140 per cent.

"In the 1970s we had never had things better, but now we feel the pinch, we feel we've never had it so bad," said a 40-year-old mother of three. "We are eating half as much as meat as we would

Yugoslav dream shattered by economic crisis and poverty

By Peter Humphrey

BELGRADE, (Reuters): Bread and 236 per cent inflation pre-occupy Yugoslavs.

Shoplifting, begging, scavenging, public suicide bids, vandalism and strikes top the list of growing social problems in a state whose prosperity was once the envy of other communist countries.

As winter sets in, the economic crisis has sent living standards plummeting to a 20-year low, official reports say.

The country's news agency Tanjug last month attacked the ruling communist elite saying they had argued among themselves so much that they had lost sight of the hardships faced by ordinary people.

It said Yugoslav leaders pushed the country "to the brink of despair" and "forced them to line up for bread." "We want bread" was a common slogan in 800 labour strikes this year.

Openness
President Josip Broz Tito, who died in 1980, created his own brand of "workers' self-management" socialism and a policy of openness to the West, and the Western credits.

By the 1970s, Yugoslavs had learned to live it up, by example of Tito's own lifestyle, as he hoped from one villa to another by private jet and yacht. Millions had left their farms to enjoy urban comfort.

"We've never had it better," was the apt slogan of the day.

A consumer boom fueled by Western credits let Yugoslavs spend lavishly on luxury villas, foreign cars, Western fashions, and overseas holidays.

But now Yugoslavia is struggling to service its \$21 billion debt, inflation has soared, unemployment has risen, and strikes have erupted.

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afford last year. We only eat lean meat once or twice a month."

The glitter of fashionable boutiques on Belgrade's once-chic Knez Mihajlova shopping street has long vanished.

People ogle at the windows of duty free shops selling imported Western luxuries. But these are for foreigners only.

A small frozen chicken costs 30,000 dinars (\$7.50), as much as it would cost in a London supermarket, while monthly wages here average little more than \$100.

Somehow, some people get by. The remittances of overseas Yugoslavs help them along, or they earn "grey money" by moonlighting. But it is not that easy for everyone.

Police recently reported three cases of people turning themselves into human torches in desperate suicide bids linked to poverty and unemployment.

They said shoplifting was becoming more common, along with fights between hard-up customers and shop staff, and scuffles in the early morning queues for the cheapest kind of bread.

Shops now keep expensive items like coffee and cosmetics closer to the cash registers.

Once rare, begging and scavenging is now common. In Serbia, the biggest republic in the Yugoslav federation, abortions have soared in recent years, partly due to poverty.

Workers and students in the impoverished Montenegro

region in southern Yugoslavia were last month involved in the first clashes with riot police as social unrest deteriorated.

Since Tito died, Yugoslavia has had collective rule, which allows no individual leader to take control of the country in Tito's iron-clad paternal manner.

He left behind this system to forestall a struggle between Yugoslavia's eight regions, whose differing ethnic composition and economic levels set them at each other's throats.

Last month Yugoslavs bent their ears to radio and television sets hoping that the ruling Communist Party might announce a breakthrough in long-stalled reform plans.

Their hopes were dashed: It was yet another spectacle of internal quarrels and regional polemics over the constitution, like so many other party leadership meetings before it.

Amendments
Constitutional amendments are due to be proclaimed on Nov 29 to pave the way for creating a market economy.

Prime Minister Branko Mitic has said the reforms may shut down insolvent enterprises posing new employment problems and further austerity.

He slightly raised maximum pay limits this month. Cheap food ingredients were bought by the thousands and sold directly to the workers because Yugoslav shops refused to sell them at low prices.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1499 — Perkin Warbeck, pretender to English throne, is executed.
- 1831 — Peace of Kappel ends second civil war in Switzerland.
- 1844 — Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein are declared independent from Denmark.
- 1890 — Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is separated from the Netherlands.
- 1918 — Deodoro da Fonseca, first president of Brazil, is ousted by Navy revolt.
- 1943 — US forces defeat Japanese in Pacific battle of Tarawa in World War II.
- 1967 — Anti-American demonstrations are held in Ankara, Turkey, as US envoy arrives to try to cool dispute between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus.
- 1971 — China takes seat as permanent member of United Nations Security Council.
- 1972 — Bolivia declares state of siege, and rightwing government says there was a conspiracy to overthrow it.
- 1977 — Israel parades tanks on its side of Lebanese border as warning to Syrian troops and Palestine commandos to stay away from frontier.
- 1986 — Philippines President Corason Aquino dismisses defence chief Juan Enrile after reported coup attempt.
- 1987 — Iranian Navy warships shell two freighters sailing to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in Strait of Hormuz during Gulf war.

Secretive agency draws a chrysanthemum curtain around Japanese emperor

By Daniel Snider

TOKYO: The most secretive agency in Japan is not its intelligence organisation. It is the Imperial Household Agency.

The agency, or kunaicho, is responsible for administering the affairs of Japan's imperial family, including the official duties and the ceremonies and rites performed by the Emperor.

Critics say the kunaicho has used its power to draw an almost impenetrable "chrysanthemum curtain" around the imperial family. The agency tightly controls the flow of information about Japan's monarchy, not only to the public but to the rest of the government.

Complaints about the imperial guardians have surfaced recently during the month-long illness of Emperor Hirohito, who has occupied the "Chrysanthemum Throne" for 62 years. All information about the Emperor's condition has come from the agency, consisting of several reports a day of the monarch's vital signs.

Divine
For some Japanese, the attitude of the Imperial Household Agency is an uncomfortable reminder of the pre-World War II era, when the Emperor was kept totally apart from the people and was treated as a divine figure in accordance with ancient myths.

The functioning of the imperial institution contradicts democracy, because "it is not open," says critic Rev Masahiro Tomura, an official of the United Church of Christ who follows church and state relations.

The agency has the primary responsibility for shaping the content of the Emperor's role. "The agency is proud of its secretive system, which keeps the Emperor surrounded by a lot of taboos," says Tomura.

Agency officials, who said they were unavailable for interview, deny that they are holding back information from the public. Compared to the prewar period, recent years have seen a far more active Emperor, appearing regularly at public functions.

Information
But life of the royal family still largely goes on in the distant surroundings of the Imperial Palace, to which the public has almost no access. Within the palace, the Emperor still performs rituals associated with the ancient beliefs of ancestor worship and Shintoism, Japan's native pantheistic religion.

"The principle of the agency is not to tell anything happening inside the imperial institution," comments veteran reporter Hiroshi Takahashi, who has written a book on the subject. Takahashi compares the news



Emperor Hirohito

being provided about the Emperor's condition to what was given 60 years ago. "The information provided by the Imperial Household Agency is exactly the same that was offered when the emperor of the Taisho Era was dying (in 1926)," says Takahashi, who reports for Kyodo News Service. "The only improvement is that the official (who provides the information) appears in front of the reporters."

Tension over this issue surfaced at one point a few weeks ago when Grand Steward Shichi Fujimoto, who heads the agency, rebuked reporters for publishing information leaked

from Cabinet sources which contradicted the agency's account. "Which information do you think is correct, ours or information given by sources close to the prime minister," the grand steward reportedly snapped.

But even the prime minister's office has complained about the trickle of information coming out of the kunaicho. The chief cabinet secretary publicly requested the agency to open up more, but to little apparent effect. And, according to cabinet sources, the government is unhappy with the reports it has been receiving directly from the agency. In fact, to date, no government official outside the Imperial Household Agency has even been allowed to see the Emperor, although he has been well enough to receive short visits.

Descendant
The agency is a direct descendant of the prewar Imperial Household Ministry, a cabinet-level organisation. Under the postwar reforms, it was downgraded to an office attached to the prime minister's office, with the grand steward appointed by the prime minister.

The agency has 1,130 employees, with an annual budget of about \$90 million. The imperial family, unlike the British royal family, for example, has no source of income other than

that annual budget. Most of it — \$66 million in the last fiscal year — went to the administrative costs of the agency, which includes the upkeep of the imperial palaces and various official functions. The rest, about \$24 million, went directly to the imperial family itself, including the Crown Prince and his immediate family.

Though there have been changes, the functioning of the inner core of the agency remains remarkably unaltered from prewar days. The agency is divided into two parts — the so-called omote, or "front," and the uki, or "back." The grand steward and his administrators are the "front." The "back" consists of the 80-odd people who take care of the daily life of the Emperor and the Empress.

Care
The head of the uki is the jichu, or grand chamberlain, who is assisted by lesser chamberlains and ladies in waiting. "They take care of the Emperor and Empress 24 hours a day," says Kyoshi Kubo, who covered the agency for the leading daily Yomiuri Shimbun. The uki includes the maids and others who serve meals, change their clothes, and clean their rooms. It also includes the court physicians.

The Emperor would typically spend part of his day in his palace office dealing with his limited

official duties, such as signing documents. "If the Emperor has a question to ask while working," explains Kubo, "these chamberlains will help him and, if necessary, contact the omote."

During the Emperor's illness, Grand Chamberlain Satoru Yamamoto has controlled all access to him and the flow of information about his condition. Indeed, the grand steward himself did not see the Emperor until several weeks after he fell ill.

These officials carefully script the Emperor's public appearances, including his ceremonial meetings with visiting heads of state. By tradition, when the Emperor meets such a guest, the contents of the discussion are never disclosed. The grand chamberlain and the grand master of ceremonies attend such meetings and afterward brief the press.

Controls
According to Takahashi's book, these careful controls have caused a few incidents. When China's Deng Xiaoping visited Japan and met the Emperor for the first time, the Emperor started the meeting by apologizing for Japan's war against China. Japanese papers, Takahashi wrote, criticised the Emperor for his failure to apologise, only to find out later from Chinese reports that he had in fact done so.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Documentary highlights plight of women arrested under Pakistan's 'Zina Ordinance'

When a woman's word doesn't count ...

By Shyama Perera

A 13-YEAR-OLD girl is abducted and gang raped by some men in her village. Because she is a female, her word cannot be accepted as evidence in a court of law. The girl is sentenced to five years imprisonment for leading them into fornication.

The scenario is not fantasy. It is just one of the examples of the injustice and inhumanity of Pakistan's "Zina Ordinance" — the Islamic law which defines adultery, fornication and rape as being crimes against the state.

To add to the complexity, the evidence of women has been inadmissible since 1983. Therefore, all it needs is an accusation of adultery by a husband to put his wife behind bars. The harshest penalty for this crime is death by stoning.

It is these issues that are addressed in a new UK Channel 4 film, *Who Will Cast the First Stone*. Shot secretly in Pakistan and smuggled back to England for editing, the 52-minute documentary studies the case histories of a number of women incarcerated under Zina.

Over 3,000 women are affected by the Zina Ordinance every year. Even in rape cases, the women are considered responsible for initiating the act.

The minimum penalty is 30 lashes. They get no legal aid and most have no access to a lawyer. "We are not a barbaric nation, it is only a section of military regime that is barbaric. There is a revolution in society to such barbaric punishments."

Admits Even with access to a lawyer, bail is not available until a hearing takes place. This can take years. At the beginning of the film, Roshan Jan, her face completely hidden behind a "burkha", describes how she has been in prison 16 months awaiting trial.

"My husband got another wife without my permission. I filed a divorce petition and he then filed a counter petition saying I had married without his consent," she says. "He said it was because I had not asked him."

On camera the husband admits paying police to press the charge because: "It's a question of honour." His wife's defence counts for nothing.

In the documentary, another woman in her forties, Ghulam Sabina, tells how she spent four



Women voters in Pakistan's general election last week.

years in jail after a male neighbour with whom she had argued, denounced her as an accomplice to Zina.

A young wife, Shaheeda Parveen, describes being sentenced to death by stoning after a court decided her second marriage was adulterous. "Our blood froze. Our throats were dry. I know women who have burned themselves to death because they believed they would never get justice," she says.

'Benazir has said she will repeal the Zina Ordinance but she has to be very careful not to upset the mullahs because they can be very dangerous in opposition ...'

After public outcry, Shaheeda Parveen's husband Ahmed was released, but it has ruined her life she says. In a rural community, the shame of imprisonment and denunciation is almost impossible to shake off.

The issue has been taken up by middle class women throughout Pakistan, the only Islamic state in which they have been able to mobilise. At the

forefront is Asma Jahangir, a lawyer who speaks out in the film and who recently risked her liberty to come to London and condemn Zina publicly.

She said: "We are not a barbaric nation, it is only a section of military regime that is barbaric. There is a revolution in society to such barbaric punishments."

"The question is, does the law reflect reality? If you pick up our legal books it would seem that the women of Pakis-

To add to their shame and degradation, 70 per cent of women imprisoned under Zina say they have been raped by police officers who consider them women of easy virtue.

There are about 7,000 appeals against conviction each year — compared to less than 300 for theft.

Zina was introduced by the military government of President Zia-ul-Haq in 1979. His death earlier this year should herald a change in the laws, but even a government led by Benazir Bhutto could run into problems.

Ahmed Jamal, the film's co-producer, explained: "Benazir has said she will repeal the Zina Ordinance but she has to be very careful not to upset the mullahs, because they can be very dangerous in opposition."

Shahida Sumar adds: "Benazir's stand is not all that clear. She has said she will repeal Zina but we have no reason to believe her because she also says she will work within Islamic laws. That is something we do not want when it is so clearly discriminatory to women."

Sensational new film hits at the heart of American morality

Romance and the single mother

By William Lowther

A HARROWING new Diane Keaton film on sex and the single mother may cause millions of women to re-evaluate the balance between romance and raising a child.

Not since last year's *Fatal Attraction* has a film had the potential for such impact and shock.

Where *Fatal Attraction* concerned a married man's affair with another woman, *The Good Mother* is about a divorced mother who takes a lover and loses her child as a result.

The film is causing a terrific stir in the US and brings into focus questions long left unanswered:

● Should a divorced father have any control over his former wife's lifestyle when she has custody of their child?

● Should a divorced woman with a young daughter allow her new lover to live in?

● How open, how sexually free, should any couple be in the presence of children?

Miss Keaton, 42, is getting rave reviews for her portrayal of Anna Dumlap in this adaptation of Sue Miller's best-selling 1986 novel.

Anna is devoted to her six-year-old daughter Molly and the two live in Boston.

Anna's life revolves around being "a good mother." The desire to be a passionate, sexy person had always been latent inside her, but she had never been erotic, especially with her ex-husband Brian.

And then she meets Leo, an artist, played by Irish-born Liam Neeson.

Diane Keaton's new film *The Good Mother* is about a divorced woman who takes a lover and loses her child as a result. The film is causing a terrific stir in the US and brings into focus many questions long left unanswered when a marriage breaks up and there are children involved. Not since last year's *Fatal Attraction* has a film had the potential for such impact and shock.

She falls unreservedly in love: repressed divorcee becomes sensual woman.

The new boyfriend moves in and forms an easy rapport with Molly.

One night when Molly awakes with a nightmare, Anna lets the girl climb into bed with her and Leo as they continue to make love.

Leo sits on the bathroom floor reading aloud from children's books as Anna and Molly splash together in the bath.

And then, when Anna is working late, Molly walks into the bathroom while Leo is taking a shower. She sees him nude, and asks if she can touch him.

He lets her do it because, as he explains later, he doesn't want Molly to have hang-ups about sexual matters.

But Molly tells her father. And he, infuriated because Anna has told him he was a terrible lover, goes to court to gain custody of Molly on the grounds that she is living in moral danger. In the process,

Anna loses everything. The film goes to the heart of America's new morality.

For in this country of eight million single mothers, balancing romantic affairs with the duties of being a good mom, can be a major domestic problem.

Miss Keaton says: "It's not as simple as you have sex and you enjoy it, and you pay. Sex in Anna's case is not bad, just badly handled."

"She just lets go, and so late in life. This is the sort of thing you do in adolescence, not in middle life."

Miss Keaton, who has been linked with men as diverse as Woody Allen and Warren Beatty, but who has never married, adds: "I don't if it's such a good idea to have a child in bed with you when you're making love. That's really a tough one."

The Good Mother is directed by Leonard Nimoy, best known as *Star Trek's* Mr Spock.

He says: "We have a tough time in our society dealing with the idea of sexuality in a

mother. We understand that after a divorce the father can immediately go out and bounce from bed to bed. But with the mother it's, "Now wait just a minute, let's talk about this. How active is she going to be? Does the kid know about this?" and so on. It really is the Madonna/whore question, which is ancient."

But when it comes to the question of right or wrong, Nimoy dances away. He says: "There are people who will say that Brian, the former husband, is absolutely right and Anna made a big mistake."

"And there are people who will say he's an uptight pain who doesn't want the kid at all and who's only getting back at her."

"There are people who will say that Leo did exactly the right thing and there are people who will say that Leo should be locked up."

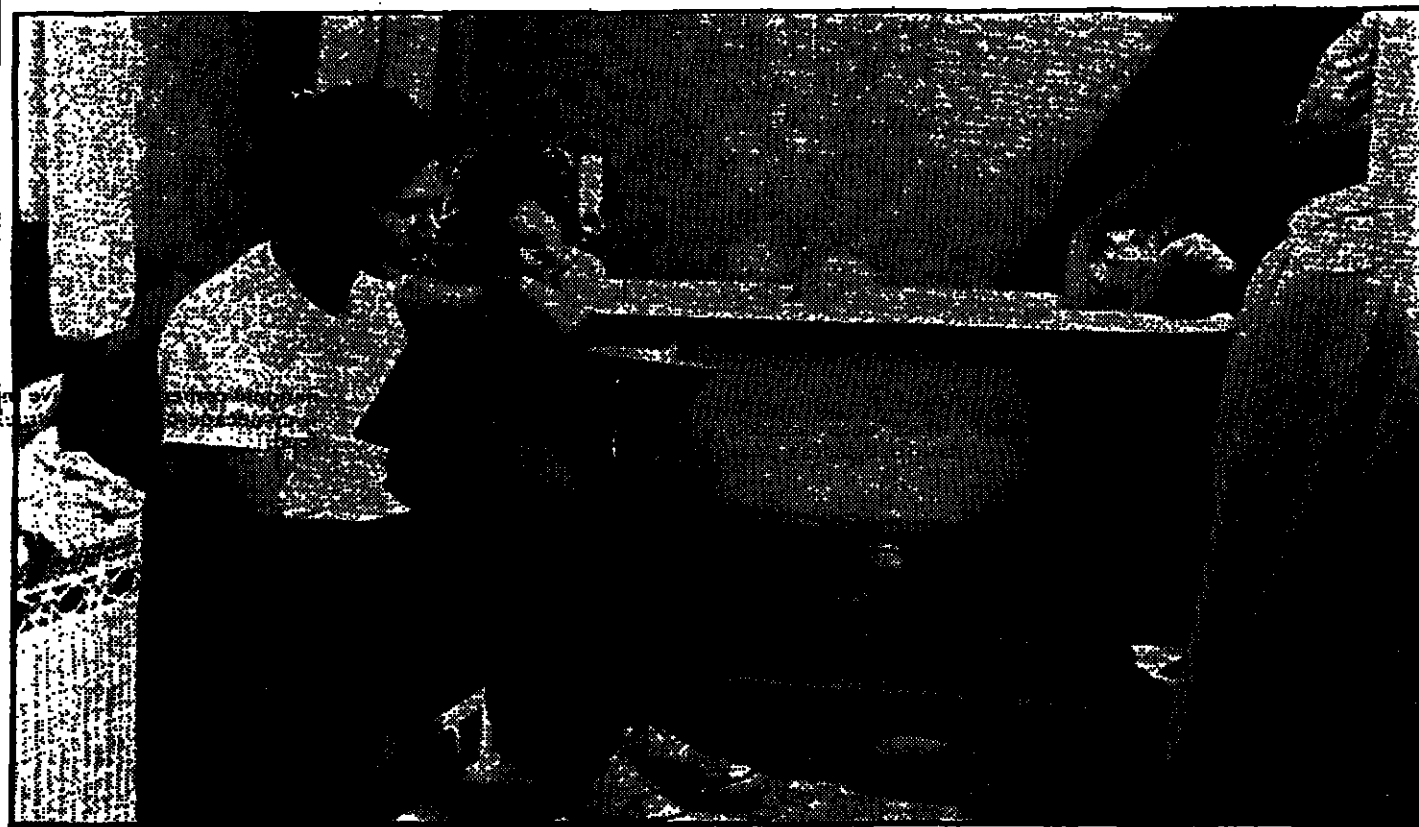
Dr Maureen Kearney, a psychologist at the Centre of Personal Enrichment in Washington, deals daily with situations similar to the one in the film.

She said: "Children are forced to grow up too quickly. They should not be invited into the adult world prematurely."

"Children should not be brought into bed where there is love-making. Nudity is OK, if no big deal is made about it."

"We don't really know if there was any negative emotional reaction from the child. This is such a complex area."

"On the surface it might seem that nothing is amiss, but inside it could be taking a great toll."



Anna (Diane Keaton) and her daughter Molly splash in the bath as Leo (Liam Neeson) reads to them.

High fashion creeps into the nursery

By Barbara Bright

PARIS. (Reuters). High fashion, French style, has crept into the nursery.

A Christian Dior hand-embroidered christening gown is a classic choice for royal babies, while sweatshirts and colourful co-ordinates from designers like Sonia Rykiel and Kenzo are the latest thing for the younger set.

Just as French designers often set the trends in ready-to-wear for men and women, the label "Made in France" has a special cachet for babies.

At least seven of Paris' big-name high fashion designers now have an infant or children's line, and brands that French consumers consider medium to upper-range — Petit Bateau, Absorba, Catimini and Tricotnet — are rated top of the line in other countries, according to industry sources.

"Our baby clothes have a

high fashion authority in foreign markets," said Jean-Paul Loizeau, a spokesman for Groupe Enfante, the French children's clothing industry.

Christian Dior is the acknowledged grandfather of deluxe outfits for children, and still specialises in classic French designs such as knee-length velvet trousers for boys and taffeta dresses with hand-smocked yokes and lace-trimmed petticoats for girls.

The original idea at Dior's baby boutique, which opened in 1967 as Paris' first designer shop for children, was to create gift items that would attract doting grandparents, godparents and aunts.

The shop's top sellers are its bath line for babies in white towelling, with pink or blue-edged robes for 620 francs (\$95) and a 170-franc (\$27) bib with a baby Dior insignia.

The metre-long silk baptismal gown, tiered with lace ruffles and embroidered by hand, bears a price-tag of 20,250

francs (\$3,215). A cheaper version comes in fine cotton.

The baby gift idea expanded into custom-made fashions for children up to 12 years old, with new collections each winter and summer.

Dior's success led other designers into the field. The latest is Japanese designer Kenzo, who established a children's line last October and next year will bring out a baby collection.

A French fashion trade journal said "Kenzo associates amazing colours, spots and stripes ... you get the feeling he wants to educate children, teach them what real elegance is."

Rykiel's children's clothes, available since 1984, are more from tom-boys, which Rykiel, named one of the world's most elegant women, insists she was as a child.

Her speciality in knits, with sweat and tee-shirts, and rounded silhouettes and dresses and one-piece suits, with plenty of pockets.

Rykiel and Chantal Thomass, influenced by Japanese designs, helped introduce black for babies.

Marc Bourgoignie, export director for Absorba, one of France's best-known mass-market manufacturers, said their layette collection has black for fashion but is still 80 per cent in pastels.

Black, along with purple and green, has now become almost

a classic fashion colour for babies, said Couli Jobert, creative director at the Nelly Roby design studio.

But baby fashion for next season, she said, will return to closer-to-the-body shapes and traditional pastels.

"Fashion for babies and children is related to a style of life. People who grew up in the colourful, anything goes late-60s and 70s wanted the same bright clothes for their children," said Jobert.

"Now there's a return to tradition ... and those who never wore the classic styles are keen to see them on their kids."

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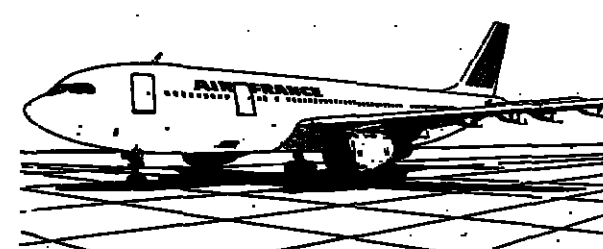
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OUTLOOK

By Kathy Cuddihy

WHAT makes you happy? If you stop to think about it, sometimes the smallest things can give immense pleasure. Although few of us experience the jumping-up-and-down type of happiness, at least not on a regular basis, most of us, on reflection, can come up with a number of events which could qualify as happy-makers. I analysed my own routine and came up with a few definitions of what happiness is to me.

Happiness is surviving computer technology. First I had to learn how to become compatible with my computer, then I had to figure out how to make the computer compatible with the printer. At times, both of them let me know that they still have minds of their own, but I think that's just a sneaky ploy to make me more appreciative when they decide to perform properly. I have to admit, the play works. Having several hours of work print out without a hitch inspires a truly special kind of happiness.

Happiness is having the school holidays begin. In real terms, this means not having to get up at the crack of dawn to repeatedly warn deaf, sleepy children that they'll miss the school bus if they don't get a move on NOW. It's also a blessed reprieve from packing.

Happiness is ...

nutritious lunches that will probably be traded for bubble gum cards. Last, but not least, it means no more homework — for me. Apart from the intellectual demands, which often test me to my limit, it's embarrassing not even knowing how to translate some of the instructions.

On a more noble plateau, it's of course wonderful to have the children at home. These long vacation periods give us a chance to spend time together, enjoy each other's company, form special bonds.

Happiness is having the long school holidays come to an end. Right. Enough is enough. Dawn, lunch-boxes, and homework being to look good after a few weeks of whinnying kids persistently telling me they're bored unless I entertain them 24-hours a day!

Happiness is managing to apply two coats of nail polish without having to redo a single nail. Gone are the days when I could blame polish smears and flaws on smelly infants who needed urgent nappy changes the minute I was finished putting on the first coat. Now I have to bear full responsibility for my impulsive actions — like deciding to floss my teeth

before the polish has hardened. Yes, it's a happy day when I give myself a perfect manicure ... in only one try.

Happiness is receiving real mail (as opposed to junk mail). My neighbour says I produce more correspondence than anyone she has ever known. Unfortunately, the people to whom I write would seem to be seriously remiss in that field. Either that or there's a conspiracy in the post office to destroy any letters addressed to me. No, I say "letters." That's because they always let the bills through.

Happiness is hearing the phone ring, getting to it ahead of a horde of youngsters, and finding that it's actually for me. Of course, if this event happened all the time, it wouldn't be eligible for the happiness definition. Because it's such a rare occurrence, it more than adequately qualifies.

See what I mean? Happiness can be interpreted in many different ways. I haven't even bothered to discuss obviously major happy-makers, such as job promotions. (In the case of freelancers like myself, just having a job is cause for happy relief.) But we all know that Life does not comprise solely

happy happenings. We have to have a few downers to make us more alert when even minor uppers come along. Just to show you what I mean, I've listed a few examples of situations which I classify as desperate.

Desperation is arriving at a hotel after a difficult, dusty journey, anticipating a deep, hot bath ... only to be told that there's water rationing in effect and the supply won't be resumed for another eight hours.

Desperation is being last in a long line waiting to get into a public toilet. Real desperation is finally getting to the front of the line, only to find that you don't have any change to get into the pay cubicle whose door has definitely slammed shut and locked.

Desperation is having to come up with column ideas every week ... and being told that I can't go on holiday until I've produced columns for the entire summer.

Ah well, looking on the positive side, at least in the latter example, I suppose one person's desperation is another person's happiness. Presumably my editor feels happy relief when I somehow manage to meet his impossible deadlines ... (But, then, I get a bit of pleasure, too. I keep him in suspense by waiting until the last minute to make my submissions!)

Are you a super slob?

By Mary Kemp

IF your bad habits include wearing the same socks for a week, leaving the top off the toothpaste and ignoring the washing-up, you could be in danger of turning into a slob. Worse still, you might already be one.

If you have noticed that your friends no longer surprise you with unexpected visits, it could be because of your dirty coffee cups and overflowing rubbish bins.

Or are you so fastidious that you iron your underwear and polish the inside of your bath taps? This quiz will reveal your true slob rating....

(1) After an evening in front of the television you get up to go to bed only to find the dinner plates have been pushed under the armchair. Do you?

- Leave them where they are.
- Make an attempt to stack them neatly.
- Carry them into the kitchen.
- Wash them up and put them away.

(2) How often do you empty the bin in your kitchen?

- When you can fit no more rubbish in it.
- When it is half full.
- At the end of every day.
- When rubbish is overflowing onto the floor.

(3) You are having a cigarette and a cup of coffee at a friend's house when you realise you have no ashtray. What do you do?

- Let the ash fall onto the carpet.
- Use the coffee cup saucer.
- Use a bin.
- Ask for an ashtray.

(4) You come inside after a long walk in the dust. What do you do with your dusty clothes?

- Take them off to wash immediately.
- Keep them on.
- Ask someone else to hang them up.
- Leave them in a pile on the floor.

(5) Clearing the breakfast table you find an empty milk bottle. Do you?

- Swill it out with cold water.
- Put it still dirty in the milk crate.
- Wash it thoroughly with hot water and a bottle brush.
- Leave it on the draining board for a couple of days.



(6) After a luxurious soak in the bath, what do you do?

- Leave a dirty ring around the bath.
- Forget to pull out the plug.
- Swirl around the bath quickly.
- Clean the bath thoroughly and dry it with a towel.

(7) What would you do if you pulled on a pair of jeans only to find dirty socks still in the legs?

- Put the whole lot in the wash.
- Wash the socks but wear the jeans.
- Put both the jeans and the socks back in the drawer.
- Wear both.

(8) It is Saturday morning and you discover your shirt needs ironing. Do you?

- Give it a quick iron.
- Take five minutes to painstakingly iron it.
- Wear it creased.
- Iron the front but not the back.

(9) You are just about to leave the house for an evening out, when the washing machine stops. Do you?

- Take out the washing the next morning.
- Open the washing machine door to let the

air in.

- Leave the washing in for the next few days.
- Take it out and hang it up to dry.

(10) Apart from a novel or an alarm clock, what would you be most likely to find on your bedside table?

- A coffee cup full of mouldy coffee.
- Nothing.
- A vase of flowers.
- A pile of used tissues.

(11) When you make a cup of tea with a teabag, which of the following are you likely to do?

- Throw the teabag in the sink.
- Put the teabag on a saucer and carry it to the bin.
- Throw the teabag away but spill drops on the floor.
- Leave the teabag on a teaspoon.

(12) You sit down for dinner in a restaurant and discover you have no napkin. Do you?

- Wipe your fingers on the table cloth.
- Tuck the table cloth into your collar.
- Ask the waiter to fetch you a napkin.
- Use a tissue from your bag.

(13) As you lie in bed you sud-

denly realise you haven't changed the sheets for three weeks. Do you?

- Turn over and go to sleep.
- Get out of bed and change them.
- Put a note by your bed to remind you to do it in the morning.
- Think nothing of it. Your sheets usually last a month.

(14) Out for a drive you stop to buy a packet of crisps. When you've finished them do you?

- Throw the empty packet in the back seat of the car.
- Stuff it between the seats.
- Stop the car and put the empty packet in a litter bin.
- Put it in your pocket to throw away when you get home.

(15) Your mother-in-law is coming round for afternoon tea. How do you tackle the housework?

- Spray some air-freshener in each room.
- Hoover all the floors and polish the tables.
- Sweep the dirt under the carpet and put the newspapers under the cushions.
- Offer her a dustpan and brush when she arrives.

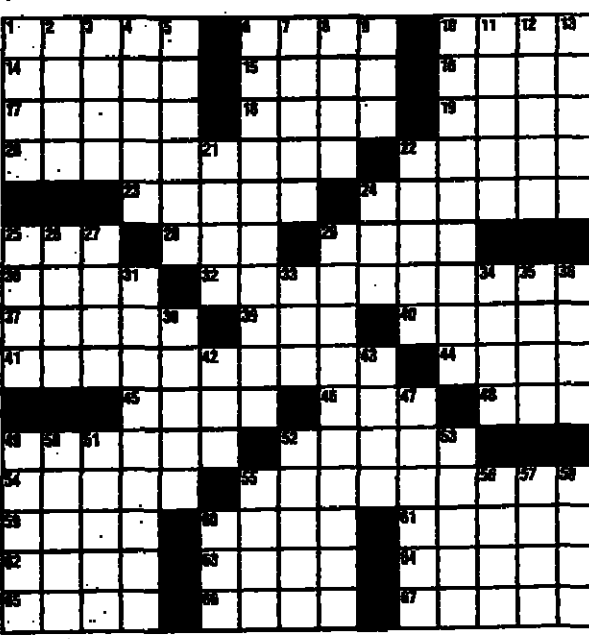
Now for the truth — good or bad. This is your slob rating:

0 - 15: If a guest dropped a biscuit, you're the kind of person who would catch it before it hit the floor. You take real pleasure in hoovering the stairs and probably spend Friday nights ironing the bed linen.

15 - 30: Given the chance you would leave your dirty washing in a heap and never rinse the bath, but it sounds as though you have someone to keep you in check. Lucky you! That nagging person really cares and would hate to see you turn into a slob.

30 - 45: You are definitely a slob, to put it mildly. The pen you used to do this quiz is probably already lost down the side of the sofa. Have you got many friends? Do they visit you often? If not, may be changing your socks once in a while or doing the washing up might help.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Sap sucking insect
6 Strike it out
10 Piece of land
14 Slanted
15 Doorway sign
16 Tibetan priest
17 Left-hand page
18 Valley in California
19 Parrots
20 Vestibules
22 Be frugal
23 Parts of a contract
24 Ample supply
25 Mineral fiber: abbr.
28 Nero's 551
29 Go by boat
30 Make a trade
32 Laws or statutes
37 Travelling tinker
39 In the past
40 Cubic meter
41 Kind of highway
44 Do the crawl
45 Narrative
46 Recipe abbr.
48 Turning point for a ballerina
49 Like Ivy
52 YMCA et al.
54 Singer-actress
55 Extra jobs
59 Mild expletive
60 Handle
61 Teheran native

DOWN
2 Trick
3 Fish's respiratory organ
4 Long overblouse
5 Word with off or up
6 Fencer's blade
67 Lyric poem
1 Part of TAE
2 Hammer head
3 Forest creature
4 Map feature
5 Put in a silo
6 Designate
7 Student ordeals
8 Edges
9 Airline abbr.
10 Blood components
11 Rabbit fur
12 Catkin
13 Savory
21 Flet border
22 Diets, British style
24 Bit of butter
25 Spore sacs
26 Ballet bird
27 Tease
29 Arizona resort city
31 Made believe
33 Muslim leader
34 Salamander
35 Kingston —
36 Scattered, in heraldry

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
ZEBRA SASH QUAG
IDIOM HATE URDU
GALLIA ORAL AGES
MEADOW LENTIENT
NEXT ANON
TRANSLUCING STRAW
WAD SAME DELETE
IDEA REVUE YULE
LINNET FENCE SAIL
LOOTS PRIESTESS
TANGO VISA
JONQUIL ATTEMPT
ABOY RILL NAOMI
MOUE OCTIV CLUNK
BEND SEVE EERIE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

THE CASE OF THE VANISHING LOSER!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 9 4
♥ Q J 8 5
♦ Q 5 2
♣ 8 2

WEST EAST
♠ 6 2 ♠ K J 10 8 7 5
♥ A 4 ♥ 7 2
♦ 10 8 6 4 3 ♦ A 9
♣ Q 10 7 6 ♣ 9 5 4

SOUTH
♠ Q 3
♥ K 10 6 3
♦ K J 7
♣ A K J 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♦ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass
4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♦
In the best of all worlds, declarer would be able to thwart any nefarious scheme of the defenders. In real life that is not always possible. Still, when prospects for the contract seem bleak, there may still be a ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

North-South were playing Jacoby Transfer Bids, so North's bid of two diamonds showed five hearts and his subsequent two no trump rebid promised a balanced hand of some 8-9 points. South went on to game on the strength of his good fit and ruffing value in spades.

West led a diamond, East took the ace and returned the suit. Obviously, one of the defenders was

striving for a ruff, and if the other held the ace of hearts, there was no way that declarer could prevent a defensive ruff. If that were so, it would seem that declarer would have to lose a spade — and his contract.

Fortunately, declarer was an accomplished technician. He realized that he could not possibly guarantee his contract. However, with a favorable lie of the cards, he might be able to engineer an endplay.

After winning the second diamond in hand, declarer cashed the ace-king of clubs and ruffed a club high. Only then did he lead a trump. West took the ace and gave his partner a diamond ruff, but East did not enjoy being on lead. With nothing left in his hand except spades, his forced return of that suit away from the king gave declarer the contract.

Note that it would not help for West to shift to a spade after winning the ace of hearts. The defenders would get a spade trick but they would lose their ruff, and the contract would still be made.



"I must've had a good time here last night. My wife hasn't spoken to me all day."



"Why do mornings have to start at such an unearthly hour?"

"It only pays out if you get a winning line!"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Grant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

The Moon's better influence coupled with that of the Sun will help you to get things done. You must not however allow yourself to be distracted. Do not spend money on trivialities you cannot afford. Be objective.



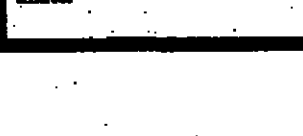
Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Venus' better influence will help you to stay on good terms with those close to you. Make sure you get enough exercise without straining yourself. Do not expect others to do your chores for you. Be tactful.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You are too liable to take things quite literally. You will be able to reap the benefits of something on which you embarked some time ago. Do not place too much reliance on the possibility of winning a competition. Be tolerant.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You are subject to mixed influences and you should not do anything too out of the ordinary. Try to avoid straining yourself. Effect a better balance between work and leisure. Be more attentive.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Something you do not like doing that has to be done should not be shirked. The Moon's influence will help you to make up your mind. You should not believe all you hear. Be more cautious.



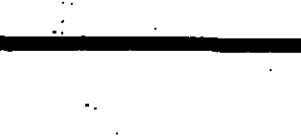
Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

This is going to be quite a tiring day for you so try not to overdo things. Try to make the best use of the time at your disposal. Keep your wits very much about you. Be generous.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will be able to come to the right conclusion where a personal matter is concerned. You should not allow yourself to become upset about little or nothing. Try to rid yourself of some preconceptions. Be less pessimistic.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will have plenty to do and you have no time to daydream. However do not think that thinking before acting is a waste of time. You will be able to do something to please your partner. Be observant.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should have the courage of your convictions. You will tend to be a little on the nervous side and should do all you can to calm yourself. Make sure you do not drive too far or too fast. Be polite.



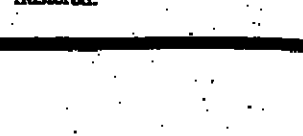
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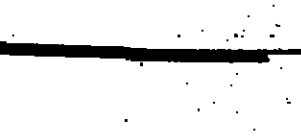
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Investors urged to put their money in productive sectors

DAR ES SALAAM, Nov 22, (AP): President Ali Hassan Mwinyi has urged private investors to put their money in productive sectors like agriculture, mining, tourism, fishing and manufacturing to help revive Tanzania's economy.

"The economic situation remains critical and will remain the main challenge for sometime to come," said Mwinyi in an interview, the independent weekly Financial Times published yesterday.

"We want, and encourage, private sector investment in these and many other areas of our economy," he said.

Mwinyi was asked if he was happy with the flow of private capital investment.

"In short," he answered, "I am not happy. Some private sector investment is already taking place, but it is not enough."

Investors
Local and foreign investors were put off in 1987 by the government's nationalisation of banks, insurance companies, tea, coffee and sisal plantations, some hotels, mines and major industries.

Tanzania, a former British colony, pursued socialist economic policies after gaining independence in 1961. Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's first president, resisted reform proposals, mainly from the International Monetary Fund.

Mwinyi, who succeeded Nyerere, signed the country's first agreement with the IMF in 1985. He signed the second agreement on Nov 4.

Details of the second agreement were not publicised, but the government devalued the currency by 21 per cent two days later. The value of the shilling has gone down by 200 per cent over the past three years.

Mwinyi said the government hopes to gain private investors' confidence when an investment code being drafted is completed at the end of the year.

Foreign financial institutions must observe Kuwaiti rules

KUWAIT, Nov 22, (KUNA): Foreign banking and financial corporations operating in Kuwait were told to observe the country's standing rules governing banking and financial activities.

An appeal in this respect was made by the Kuwait's Finance Minister Jassim Mohammed Al Khorafi and the Kuwait Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah.

Responding to a question by KUNA on a recent announcement published in the local press by a foreign bank that it was ready to carry out, in Kuwait, bank-

ing operations for the interest of the father bank it represents, Finance Minister Al Khorafi said that Kuwait has standing regulations governing the work of the banking profession.

Regulations
"These regulations are aimed at the protection of banking activities for the interests of the national economy and depositors," he said. "For this reason we demand foreign banking and financial institutions to observe the existing rules so as to avoid any problems," Al Khorafi added.

The finance minister stressed that his ministry will not hesitate to take all necessary measures to enforce the law.

The Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem said Article 59 of the 1968 Law No. 32 which governs banking activities in Kuwait, banned any foreign banking or financial establishment or its representative from practising any banking activities inside Kuwait in favour of those establishments.

He said the Central Bank of Kuwait would not allow any foreign party, whatsoever, to practise any direct or indirect

banking activity for its own interests, hence violating the Kuwaiti rules of the banking profession.

Violation

He said the recent announcement in the local press by a foreign bank was a clear violation of Article 59 of the law governing the banking activities in Kuwait.

The Central Bank governor said that he made contacts with the interior ministry which had already taken necessary measures stopping the illegal activity.

Outlook is far from a deep recession

OECD growth rates forecast to slow down to 3pc in '89

THE recession that many economists and financial analysts predicted will be the inevitable outcome of the October 1987 crash has failed to materialise so far, and is very unlikely to happen in 1989. According to Gulf Bank March '88 commentary that "many of the economic indicators which are normally associated with recession either do not exist at present or are not strong enough to cause serious imbalances leading to recession."

This conclusion seems to be still valid. This is due to the fact that economic fundamentals have greatly improved beyond expectations.

Reason
The Gulf Bank current monthly commentary said the main reason which explains why the world economy did not fall into a recession after the October 1987 crash is that central banks have played a very active role in pumping a great deal of money into the financial markets to sustain a reasonable level of liquidity and is supporting co-ordination of monetary policies to prevent wide currency fluctuations. The lesson of the 1929-32 Great Depression seems to be well learned.

Growth
GDP growth rate in the US is estimated to be about 4 per cent in 1988, compared with a revised 3.4 per cent in 1987. It is likely to fall below 3 per cent in 1989. Japan's GDP is to grow by 5.2

per cent this year compared with 4.2 per cent in 1987, and is likely to fall to 4.2 per cent in 1989. West Germany, as expected, to achieve a higher rate of growth this year (about 3 per cent) compared with 1.8 per cent in 1987 but likely to fall to 2 per cent in 1989. The UK is expected to maintain its growth rate of 4.2 per cent achieved in 1987, but it is likely to fall to about 3 per cent in 1989.

However, the six-year-old expansion of the world economy (which is the longest ever sustained period of recovery in peace time) is bound to be threatened but unlikely before 1990.

Although growth rates in major OECD countries are forecast to slow down to 3 per cent in 1989, but the outlook is far from a deep recession.

Capacity
Nevertheless, if the overall industrial capacity utilisation rate in the US exceeds the red line-limit (85 per cent) considered inflationary, as more capital spending will be required to match increasing demand which will in turn push prices higher, then an overheated US economy will start sending warning signals.

Higher prices in the US will lead to the so-called "imported inflation" in the countries that trade heavily with the US.

Being currently at 5.3 per cent, there is limited scope for a further decline in the unemployment rate

in the US without triggering higher inflation. Continued economic growth, leading to higher capacity utilisation and lower unemployment rates, has shifted the focus of attention away from recession towards inflation. The report said that interest rates are likely to be higher in 1989 in an attempt to slow down economic expansion to a sustainable rate.

It should be emphasised that if international trade is to be looked at as a two-way street, then surely trade-surplus countries will not be able to sustain their surpluses in the long run as this will entail weakening their major trading partners. Based on this dynamic vision of unrestricted world trade, the long-awaited decline in the US trade deficit may be understood. The US trade deficit is likely to fall this year to about \$132 billion compared with \$160 billion in 1987.

Depreciation
There is little doubt that the depreciation of the US dollar (which began in February 1985) was the driving force behind the process of reducing external imbalances which started late 1987 after nearly three-year time lag.

On the other hand, the improvement in the US trade deficit since the beginning of 1988 has been accompanied by a rise in the dollar against some other major currencies. If the US currency continues to appreciate further in the coming year (which

is unlikely) it will be difficult for the US industry to sustain its competitive edge in the world markets and therefore the US trade balance will start to worsen again, which will, in turn, push the dollar lower.

Payments

It should also be added, that rising interest payments abroad to service the increasing level of US net foreign debt will make it difficult for the US to improve its current account deficit significantly. Despite some notable improvement, the current accounts for major industrial countries are still seriously imbalanced.

The US current account deficit is expected to be in the range of \$135-140 billion in 1988 compared with \$154 billion in 1987.

It is likely to fall further in 1989 to about \$125 billion. Whereas Japan and West Germany are expected to record surpluses ranging between \$80-85 billion and \$40-42 billion in 1988 compared with about \$87 billion and \$44.5 billion in 1987 respectively.

Although the world economy is expected to continue growing in 1989, the rate of growth will most likely be lower than in 1988. This is mainly attributed to the fact that the US is yet to deal more effectively with its huge twin trade and budget deficit. The dollar will have to move lower in the coming months in order to narrow the trade gap further, especially with Japan

and the NIC's (Newly Industrialised Countries) in East Asia.

It is to be pointed out that as the pattern of capital investment booms is very cyclical, then high growth rate cannot be sustained for a longer period of time and thus, a slowdown in economic activities in most likely in the short-term.

Furthermore, having become more and more concerned about curbing inflation, central banks in some major industrial countries, especially in the UK will be tempted to push interest rates higher.

As for the US economy, it cannot maintain a growth rate of 3 per cent annum and at the same time keep the value of the dollar at its current high level, unless foreign capital inflow is to be continued vis-a-vis high interest rates.

However, interest rates in Japan and Germany are more likely to edge lower for different reasons, the most important of which is to stimulate domestic demand. Thus, a great deal of co-ordination between monetary and fiscal policies will be needed in major industrial countries in the near future.

The report added that if there is a lesson to be learned from the October 1987 stock market crash it is that central banks in major industrial countries have used accommodative monetary policies in a far more effective way than before.

World Business Summary

Bidding for RJR Nabisco hits new peak, shares climb

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (Reuters): The richest corporate auction in US history grew richer as a new group prepared to offer more than \$25 billion for RJR Nabisco Inc, pushing the food and cigarette giant's shares sharply higher on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. RJR Nabisco's board on Sunday unveiled higher bids from two previous bidders and revealed that a new group headed by the Wall Street firm First Boston Corp had submitted a tentative proposal to pay up to \$25.3 billion in cash and an additional 1.6 billion in securities for the company. Bidding for RJR Nabisco began a month ago with a \$17 billion offer from a group of the company's managers. That bid worked out to \$75 per share, well above the company's high of \$51 in September. "It's (the bidding) starting to look like it's closer to fair value, in the \$100 (per share) area," said analyst Ronald Morrow of Smith Barney, Harris Upham Inc. The near doubling of RJR Nabisco's share price since September reflects the unrealised value that can be recovered by selling off the company's many brands, ranging from Winston cigarettes to Del Monte canned fruits and vegetables, analysts said. "There's a bonanza for people who own the stock," said Kidder Peabody analyst Roy Barry. The news that new ground had been broken in weekend bidding sent RJR Nabisco's stock higher yesterday, up \$2.25 to \$86.25.

The First Boston Group emerged as the dark horse leading a pack of Wall Street leveraged buyout groups and investment bankers that have been pursuing RJR Nabisco over the past month. The new group includes Resources Holdings Ltd, which is backed by the wealthy Pritzker family of Chicago and the Anschutz family of Denver. Their proposal would pay \$98 to \$110 cash, plus securities worth a total of about \$7, for each RJR Nabisco share.

Arab banks consider deterrent measures against Europe

ABU DHABI, Nov 22, (AP): Senior Arab bankers have hinted at adopting deterrent measures against Western industrialised countries for including Arab countries among financial high risk zones. The Basel Committee, a specialised committee named after the city in Switzerland where it meets, listed loans to the Third World, including Arab states, as a high risk, and is expected to come into effect on Dec 31, 1992. The decision was approved by the 12 ranking industrialised nations of the world. "It is unfair of the industrialised countries to treat Arab banks in this way although they have sufficient capital adequacy ratio," said Anwar Al Khalil, board chairman of the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) at the end of a three-day Arab banking conference in Abu Dhabi late yesterday. Speaking on behalf of the leading 100 Arab banks represented at the meeting, Al Khalil said "It is as if the Basel Committee wanted to punish the Third World countries including the Arab states, after they become capable of providing for their financial needs." During the oil boom of the 1970s some Arab countries turned into financial powers. The Basel Committee recommendation "is telling Arabs that what the Europeans own, belongs to them, and what the Arabs own belong to them and to the Europeans," he said. Asked about the deterrent measures available to the Arab banks against the recommendation, he said: "We may start with reciprocal treatment, which will be effective due to the close Arabs have in the international financial sector." Al Khalil also called for creating proper channels to bring home some of the \$300 billion of Arab investment abroad.

Jordanian trade delegation for Ankara

Turkey, Soviet Union seek to boost economic ties

ANKARA, Nov 22, (Reuters): Turkey and the Soviet Union open ministerial-level talks in Ankara tomorrow aimed at boosting their economic co-operation.

"The main thing is to increase the volume of trade and economic co-operation. We are for it and they are for it," a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said today.

Officials said the joint economic commission would discuss Soviet natural gas sales, construction projects, Turkish wheat sales and overall commercial and economic ties.

Soviet sources said they believed trade volume could be expanded to \$3 billion a year from about \$500 million at present.

Dealings
But Turkey, a member of the NATO Western alliance, is circumspect in dealings with the Soviet Union and has dragged its feet on some issues, including imports of natural gas.

"Natural gas will be one of the most important aspects of the talks," the Turkish official said.

Soviet officials have complained that Turkey is not taking its agreed quota of natural gas from a pipeline which went on stream across the Bulgarian frontier 16 months ago.

Turkey signed an agreement in 1984 to buy up to six billion cubic metres of gas a year by 1992.

It agreed to take 1.5 billion cubic metres in 1988 but actual volume is likely to be around 400 million cubic metres, mainly because of a fall in world prices, official sources said.

Turkey also agreed this year to buy a total of four billion cubic metres of gas a year from Algeria and Libya. Diplomats said this followed US pressure to avoid over-reliance on Moscow.

A bargaining chip for Turkey is wheat and barley sales, partly to offset the natural gas imports. It hopes to sell 500,000 tonnes next year after 350,000 tonnes in 1988.

Turkish contractors have won big Soviet contracts as part of Moscow's agreement to spend 70 per cent of its gas earnings on Turkish goods and services.

Enka Holdings and Soviet partners are due to start work in April on a 1,000-bed hospital in Moscow and to refurbish the city's historic Petrovsky passage. The contract is worth \$80 million to Enka.

Hops
The Turkish firm Koray-Baytur started work this week on a \$45-million holiday village on the Soviet Black Sea coast and other companies hope to build health resort hotels.

Cross-border road trade and tourism are also likely topics at the six-day Ankara talks following the official opening of their sole civilian crossing at Sarp on the Black Sea coast in August. It had been closed since 1937.

The Soviet delegation will be led by Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev and the Turkish team by

Finance Minister Kurtcobe Altinocin.

Meanwhile, Jordanian Trade and Industry Minister Hamdi Al Tabba left for Ankara today for talks he said were aimed partly at narrowing a trade gap now in Turkey's favour.

Tabba told the official news agency Petra the Turkish-Jordanian economic co-operation committee would also look at ways to increase trade and improve the quality of goods exchanged.

Officials in Ankara said the committee, led on the Turkish side by State Minister Kamran Inan, would discuss closer ties in tourism, communications and transport.

They said the committee, meeting for the third time, would probably sign a protocol at the end of its four-day session.

Tabba said Jordanian exports to Turkey were worth about six million dinars \$3 million in 1987, compared to imports worth 38 million dinars (\$19 million).

Reducing Mexico's debt is top priority for Salinas

MEXICO CITY, Nov 22, (AP): Reducing the nation's overwhelming foreign debt will be one of Carlos Salinas de Gortari's top priorities when he takes office as Mexico's new president in 13 days, his advisers say.

"This is the most urgent problem that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will face," said one of Salinas' advisers.

The new president's political advisers say privately he will be emphatic on his demand to improve debt-servicing terms and possibly reduce the principal of Mexico's \$102-billion debt.

Salinas' goal is to get Mexico's economy to grow at an annual rate of five per cent, says a working document prepared by advisers for his first months in office.

Hamstrung by the foreign debt payment demands, Mexico's rate of growth has been practically zero over the past six years, and its economy actually will shrink by one per cent this year.

The first person to hear Salinas' arguments for debt restructuring will be US President-elect George Bush, whom Salinas will meet on Tuesday in Houston.

The Mexican president-elect is bringing his top economic advisers to the three-hour meeting.

Mexican officials feel that Bush and his top aides, including incoming Secretary of State

James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, "are men who know the problem of the foreign debt well and have an open mind," said one Salinas adviser.

Interest and principal payments on the foreign debt long have been an economic problem for Latin American nations.

But in Mexico, suffering through its sixth year of financial crisis, the payments also have become a political problem, with a growing opposition demanding that the government stop paying interest on its debts.

Attitude
In 1988, Mexico paid a total of \$9 billion in interest on the debts and close to \$6 billion toward principal on its combined public and private debts.

At the same time, the government enacted belt-tightening measures and a wage freeze that cut into purchasing power in an attempt to fight inflation.

Amid intermittent calls for a moratorium on interest payments, Mexico consistently has maintained it intends to pay all of its foreign debts.

But it is demanding a restructuring of servicing terms and a more co-operative attitude from creditor nations and banks.

"You could stop payments on the debt today if you wanted to," a Salinas adviser said. "But what

are you going to do for the financing of your needs tomorrow? Negotiation is better than confrontation."

Mexican economists say the government's problem is how to compensate debt payments abroad by increasing Mexico's

income through exports, loans and investment.

Members of Salinas' economic team say Mexico has no intention to default on payments. But one official warns Mexico also must "grow again in order to survive."

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مركز الأمل

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)		LONDON (Beta Stocks)	
NAME	LAST	NAME	CLOSE
ABBEY LIFE	295.0	203.0	215.0
ADT LTD	122.0	INCHCAPE	264.0
ALD LYONS	472.0	JAGUAR	264.0
AMSTRAD	174.0	LABROCK	450.0
ARGYLE GP	163.0	LAND SECS	594.0
ASDA GP	146.0	LAPORTE	397.0
BAA	277.0	LASMO	483.0
BTR	288.0	LEGAL-GEN	292.0
BAT INDS	442.0	LOHMO	392.0
BARCLAYS	418.0	LUCAS IND	564.0
BASS	796.0	MAGNET	216.0
BECHAMS	149.0	MARKS-SP	153.0
BERISFORD	464.0	MAXWELL C	199.0
BICC PLC	390.0	MB GROUP	582.0
BLUE ARMY	92.0	MEPC	582.0
BLUE CIRC	438.0	MTALAN BK	410.0
BOC GP	415.0	NEXT	164.0
BOOTS CO	227.0	NTI FOODS	290.0
BPF INDS	256.0	P & O DFD	568.0
BR COMM	227.0	PEARL	409.0
BR AIRWAY	58.34	PEARSON	700.0
BR AEROSP	470.0	PICKINGTON	226.0
BR GAS RG	162.0	PLESSEY	222.5
BR GAS RT	159.0	POLLY PEC	286.0
BR LAND	379.5	RACAL ELC	283.0
B.P.	244.0	RACAL TEL	149.0
B.P.PP	143.0	RANK HVIS	322.0
BR TELCOM	253.5	RANK ORG	768.0
BURNAR OL	514.0	RECKITT-CO	918.0
BURTON	187.0	REDLAND	427.0
CABLEWIR	362.0	RMC	403.0
CADBURYS	354.4	RNG GP	508.0
COATS VTY	171.4	RODENT	473.0
COMN UNL	324.0	RTZ CORP	447.0
CONS GOLD	195.0	ROLLS ROY	133.0
COOKSONS	68.26	ROTHMAN B	468.0
COURTAUD	277.0	ROYAL TMS	66.63
DALGETY	310.0	SATONIT	353.0
DIXONS	137.6	SAUNSBURY	206.0
ENIC CHINA	485.0	SCOT-HEW	391.0
ENTER OIL	515.0	SEAGULL EN	127.0
FKI BACCK	132.0	SEAGULL AIR	39.7
FERRANTI	101.0	SEARS	127.0
FISONS	44.00	SENEGAL	215.0
GATEWAY	162.0	SHEDDICK	215.0
GEN ACCID	826.0	SHELL	987.0
GEN ELEC	175.4	SIEBE	387.0
GLAXO	665.0	SLOUGH ES	325.0
GRAMADA	331.5	STO-CHART	470.0
GLYND	299.0	STC	276.0
GUARD RYL	185.0	STOREHSE	995.0
GUN	316.0	SUN ALLIA	995.0
GUTHNESS	332.0	TARMAC	235.0
HANSON	149.0	TATAYLLE	847.0
HARRISON C	688.0	TYLER WOOD	598.0
HAKER SID	549.0	TESCO	134.0
HILLSDOWN	266.0	TSS	110.0
ICI	005.0	T+N	180.0

World Indices		1/PREV-DAYS/2		PREV-OR		PREV-YR	
INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR	INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2
FT 30 ORD	1487.3	1480.1	1489.0	1476.5	1375.3		
FT 500 SHR	1051.7	1051.7	1058.0	1050.5	957.6		
FT ALL SHR	945.99	945.99	951.59	946.27	870.22		
FT GDS SEC	88.33	88.33	88.21	87.92	88.49		
FT GDS MN	172.0	172.0	176.2	171.6	302.1		
FT NINES F	569.23	569.23	570.11	596.93	450.65		
FT OIL DLR	1208.1	1208.1	1226.8	1265.2	1165.04		
FT MLD DLR	136.73	136.73	136.51	125.62	115.04		
FT MLD STG	111.41	111.41	110.29	110.62	90.79		
FT MLD LOC	118.98	118.98	118.21	116.01	99.08		

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS HIT DAY'S HIGHS ON FIRMER WALL STREET

LONDON, NOV 22, REUTER - EQUITIES HIT THEIR DAY'S HIGHS THIS AFTERNOON AS WALL STREET RALLIED FROM AN EASIER START TO STAND FIRMER. BUT TRADING REMAINED SUBDUED AHEAD OF FRIDAY'S OCTOBER 31. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DATA, WHICH HAD BEEN A MAJOR SUPPORT FOR THE STREET RALLY YESTERDAY, NEWS OF A PACKAGE FROM ABBEY LIFE TO SWEETEN THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH LLOYDS WHICH ABBEY SHAREHOLDERS RECENTLY VOTED DOWN ALSO HELPED SENTIMENT, DEALERS SAID.

HOWEVER, ONE CAUTIONED "IT'S A PRETTY HALF-HEARTED RISE. IF WALL STREET SNEEZED WE'D STILL GET A COLD". BY 1532 GMT THE FTSE 100 WAS 9.1 POINTS UP AT 1,480.8, AFTER A HIGH OF 1,481.2.

ABBIEY STOCK SOME 26P HIGHER AT 294 THIS AFTERNOON, HELPED BY NEWS ITS TOTAL DIVIDEND FOR 1988 WOULD RISE 32 PCT TO 13.5P AND THAT IT WAS PLANNING A SPECIAL DIVIDEND OF 15P PER SHARE IF THE LLOYDS MERGER GOES THROUGH.

THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TO SELL FIVE LLOYDS BUSINESSES TO ABBEY IN RETURN FOR 57.6 PCT OF THE LIFE INSURER WAS THWARTED BY 64.4 PCT OF ABBEY'S SHAREHOLDERS EARLIER THIS MONTH. ABBEY IS NOW PROPOSING THAT THE MAJORITY FOR A NEW VOTE ON THE DEAL BE OUT TO 50 PCT FROM THE PREVIOUS 75 PCT.

THE DEAL HAD BEEN SEEN AS BIASED TO LLOYDS BUT ANALYSTS SAID THE HIGHER DIVIDENDS COULD HELP SMOOTH OBJECTIONS.

London Gold

LONDON, NOV 22, REUTER - GOLD BULLION WAS FIXED AT 418.40 DLR AN OUNCE THIS AFTERNOON, UP FROM THE MORNING FIX OF 416.10 AND MAINTAINING THE HIGHER LEVELS SEEN AT THE END OF THE MORNING SESSION.

TRADERS SAID SHORTCOVERING HAD BEEN PROMPTED BY NEWS THE IRANIAN OIL MINISTER SAID OPEC WILL END ITS TALKS ON WEDNESDAY WITH AN AGREEMENT. A RALLY IN SILVER PRICES ALSO AIDED GOLD'S RECOVERY FROM MORNING LEVELS AS LOW AS 415.00 DLR.

SILVER WAS FIRMER AT 6.10/6.12 DLR AFTER A FIX OF 606.50 CENTS WHILE PLATINUM RALLIED TO AN AFTERNOON FIX OF 569 DLR FROM A MORNING FIX OF 558.75 DLR.

London Money Market

LONDON, NOV 22, REUTER - MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES CONTINUED VIRTUALLY UNMOVED FROM MONDAY'S LEVELS IN LATE TRADING AS OPERATORS SEARCHED IN VAIN FOR NEW FACTORS.

INTERBANK RATES FROM THREE MONTHS TO ONE YEAR CONTINUED BID AT A COMMON 12-1/8 PCT -- WELL WITHIN THE RANGE WHICH REFLECTS THE CURRENT 12 PCT LEVEL OF U.K. BASE RATES.

"I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING CHANGING THIS SIDE OF CHRISTMAS. IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME VERY BAD NEWS ON THE TRADE FRONT ON FRIDAY TO GET THE MARKET GOING," SAID ONE DEALER. U.K. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DATA FOR OCTOBER ARE THE ONLY MAJOR BRITISH INDICATORS TO BE PUBLISHED THIS WEEK.

Foreign Exchange		1/PREV-DAYS/2		PREV-OR		PREV-YR	
DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG	DLR	STG	DMK
1.8265/70	1.7265/70	5.9020/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40
1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40
1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40
1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40
1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40
1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40
1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40
1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40
1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40	10.770/7835	NOON	1.8245/55	1.7245/55	5.8920/40

NEW YORK		NEW YORK	
NAME	OPEN	NAME	OPEN
A BSCX COM	30/2	30/3	30/3
ATLANTIC R	77/1	76/6	76/6
AAR CORP	22/2	22/1	22/1
ABBOTT LAB	44/3	44/3	44/3
ACME CLVD	8/0	8/0	8/0
ADV MICRO	7/4	7/4	7/4
AEROFI LAF	5/6	5/6	5/6
ANIMASION	16/1	16/1	16/1
AIR PR-CH	38/6	38/6	38/6
ALASKA AIR	19/3	19/4	19/4
ALBERTSONS	34/4	34/4	34/4
ALPHA 8-16	0	0	0
ALCAN ALUM	30/3	30/3	30/3
ALCO STAND	23/3	23/4	23/4
AN CYANAMID	44/4	44/2	44/2
AN ELET PV	26/5	26/5	26/5
AN HON PRO	77/7	78/1	78/1
AN HON PRO	79/5	79/7	79/7
AN STANDARD	0	0	0
AN STORES	54/2	54/2	54/2
AN TEL-TEL	27/6	28/0	28/0
AMOCO CORP	70/4	70/1	70/1
AMP INC	41/4	41/5	41/5
AMPCO PITT	0	0	0
AMR CORP	47/6	47/7	47/7
AMR GEN CO	30/3	30/5	30/5
AMERADA NE	27/6	27/6	27/6
ARTHEM ELE	8/3	8/3	8/3
APACHE CP	6/7	6/7	6/7
APCAL 8-12	0	0	0
ARMSTRONG	32/3	32/2	32/2
ASHLAND OIL	36/2	33/0	33/0
ASIA PACIF	6/1	6/1	6/1
ATLS CORP	30/4	30/2	30/2
AVERY INT	21/1	21/2	21/2
AVNET INC	19/3	19/4	19/4
AVON PRODS	19/2	19/3	19/3
BCE INC	31/6	31/3	31/3
BELLSOUTH	39/0	39/2	39/2
BELO CP A	25/7	25/7	25/7
BETH STEEL	0	0	0
BEVERLY	4/6	4/7	4/7
BK BOSTON	22/5	22/7	22/7
BK BOSTON	0	0	0
BK BOSTON	34/5	34/7	34/7
BK BOSTON	37/0	37/0	37/0
BK BOSTON	17/1	17/1	17/1
BK BOSTON	61/5	61/7	61/7
BK BOSTON	39/7	40/0	40/0
BK BOSTON	7/2	7/2	7/2
BK BOSTON	54/7	54/7	54/7
BK BOSTON	25/6	25/6	25/6
BK BOSTON	46/1	46/1	46/1
BK BOSTON	27/4	27/4	27/4
BK BOSTON	42/3	42/3	42/3
BK BOSTON	17/7	17/7	17/7
BK BOSTON	12/2	12/2	12/2
BK BOSTON	37/2	37/2	37/2
BK BOSTON	22/7	22/7	22/7
BK BOSTON	0	0	0
BK BOSTON	14/2	14/2	14/2
BK BOSTON	61/5	61/5	61/5
BK BOSTON	163/6	163/7	163/7
BK BOSTON	42/7	42/7	42/7
BK BOSTON	30/4	30/2	30/2
BK BOSTON	12/4	12/4	12/4
BK BOSTON	4/0	4/0	4/0
BK BOSTON	27/5	27/7	27/7
BK BOSTON	29/6	29/6	29/6
BK BOSTON	33/0	32/6	32/6
BK BOSTON	43/0	43/0	43/0
BK BOSTON	25/0	25/1	25/1
BK BOSTON	54/5	54/6	54/6
BK BOSTON	7/6	7/5	7/5
BK BOSTON	47/0	47/1	47/1
BK BOSTON	20/4	20/4	20/4
BK BOSTON	40/5	40/5	40/5
BK BOSTON	12/2	12/2	12/2
BK BOSTON	24/6	25/0	25/0
BK BOSTON	29/7	29/7	29/7
BK BOSTON	31/6	31/6	31/6
BK BOSTON	30/3	30/4	30/4
BK BOSTON	17/3	17/1	17/1
BK BOSTON	8/4	8/4	8/4
BK BOSTON	30/2	30/2	30/2
BK BOSTON	42/0	42/0	42/0
BK BOSTON	1/2	1/2	1/2
BK BOSTON	34/5	34/4	34/4
BK BOSTON	42/6	42/7	42/7
BK BOSTON	33/4	33/5	33/5
BK BOSTON	0	0	0
BK BOSTON	32/0	31/7	31/7
BK BOSTON	34/2	34/2	34/2
BK BOSTON	40/3	40/3	40/3
BK BOSTON	37/2	37/2	37/2
BK BOSTON	21/5	21/7	21/7
BK BOSTON	5/2	5/3	5/3
BK BOSTON	65/4	65/2	65/2
BK BOSTON	22/6	22/6	22/6
BK BOSTON	4/7	4/7	4/7
BK BOSTON	8/0	8/1	8/1
BK BOSTON	17/3	17/3	17/3
BK BOSTON	39/1	39/1	39/1
BK BOSTON	91/0	91/3	91/3
BK BOSTON	47/4	47/3	47/3
BK BOSTON	14/2	14/2	14/2
BK BOSTON	47/5	47/5	47/5
BK BOSTON	35/2	35/2	35/2
BK BOSTON	62/7	62/7	62/7
BK BOSTON	27/6	27/5	27/5
BK BOSTON	83/3	83/4	83/4
BK BOSTON	31/4	31/6	31/6
BK BOSTON	25/7	25/7	25/7
BK BOSTON	24/3	24/3	24/3
BK BOSTON	46/4	46/4	46/4
BK BOSTON	52/4	52/6	52/6
BK BOSTON	80/7	80/7	80/7
BK BOSTON	16/7	16/6	16/6
BK BOSTON	29/7	29/7	29/7
BK BOSTON	13/5	13/5	13/5
BK BOSTON	22/7	22/7	22/7
BK BOSTON	29/3	29/6	29/6
BK BOSTON	3/4	3/4	3/4
BK BOSTON	19/7	20/0	20/0
BK BOSTON	42/1	42/1	42/1
BK BOSTON	13/2	13/1	13/1
BK BOSTON	45/2	45/3	45/3
BK BOSTON	21/6	21/4	21/4
BK BOSTON	0	0	0
BK BOSTON	22/3	22/2	22/2
BK BOSTON	31/7	31/7	31/7
BK BOSTON	49/5	49/5	49/5
BK BOSTON	13/7	13/7	13/7
BK BOSTON	4/0	4/1	4/1
BK BOSTON	20/2	20/2	20/2
BK BOSTON	50/3	50/4	50/4
BK BOSTON	30/6	30/7	30/7
BK BOSTON	46/4	46/6	46/6
BK BOSTON	47/5	47/6	47/6
BK BOSTON	32/6	32/7	32/7
BK BOSTON	0	0	0
BK BOSTON	51/4	51/4	51/4
BK BOSTON	0	0	0
BK BOSTON	3/7	3/7	3/7
BK BOSTON	50/0	50/2	50/2
BK BOSTON	43/4	43/6	43/6

NEW YORK		NEW YORK	
NAME	OPEN	NAME	OPEN
A BSCX COM	30/2	30/3	30/3
ATLANTIC R	77/1	76/6	76/6
AAR CORP	22/2	22/1	22/1
ABBOTT LAB	44/3	44/3	44/3
ACME CLVD	8/0	8/0	8/0
ADV MICRO	7/4	7/4	7/

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Japan's interest rates likely to stay low

Dollar sinks again, gold gains

LONDON, Nov 22, (Reuters): The US and Japanese central banks bought the dollar again today renewing a battle with speculators anxious to dump it out of fears for America's economy. But it still ended the day weaker.

Trying to brake the latest slide in the dollar's value, which began a week ago, the Bank of Japan intervened in the open market during Asian trading. The US Federal Reserve Board bought dollars for yen later when New York opened.

But European central banks, which joined in efforts to stabilise the value of the currency in which most of the world does business last week, stayed out of the market this time.

Encouraged by their absence, the market took the dollar to a London close at 121.35 yen and 1.7205 West German marks which down from yesterday's 121.90 and 1.7265.

"The Fed intervened against the yen so everyone is now hitting the mark," said one European dealer.

The markets are pessimistic about President-elect George Bush's ability to narrow huge budget and trade deficits being left by the Reagan administration. They are focusing particularly on a Bush campaign pledge not to raise new taxes.

The dollar, down 10 per cent since the summer, is close to a historic low of 120.20 yen touched on Jan 4 in the shadow of the financial crash of '87.

It is at present looking a bit more comfortable against the Deutschmark — against which it fell to 1.5615 in January.

Today's was the lowest London close against the yen since Dec 31 and against the mark since June 8.

Jumped
Crude oil prices jumped today by almost a dollar after some of the OPEC ministers meeting in Vienna said the organisation may be close to an elusive agreement to curb the excess output which has created a worldwide glut.

Typical North Sea Brent blend crude oil trade in Europe for loading in January at \$12.82 a barrel, after being just under \$12 this morning.

Gold, a favoured hedge against oil-led inflation, firmed on the back of the oil price to be quoted by London bullion dealers close to \$420 an ounce, up nearly \$4.

In the stock markets today, Tokyo, the biggest, powered to a record close for the eighth straight session, its longest bull run since February.

Strong
Japanese investors like the strong yen because it means that Japan's interest rates are likely to stay low, and the Nikkei stocks average ended up another 145.86 points at 29,430.12.

But on Wall Street there were worries that US authorities might put up American interest rates to attract funds to the dollar and to Treasury bonds.

The Dow Jones industrial average at New York's midday was barely changed at 2,066.86.

In London equities hit their day's highs this afternoon as Wall Street rallied from an earlier start to stand firmer. But trading remained subdued ahead of Friday's October UK balance of payments data.

Shares traded mostly higher earlier on the back of a Wall Street rally yesterday. News of a package from Abbey life to be quoted by the proposed merger with Lloyds which Abbey shareholders recently voted down also helped sentiment, dealers said.

However, one cautioned "It's a pretty half-hearted rise. If Wall Street sneezed we'd still get a cold." By 1532 GMT the FTSE 100 was 9.1 points up at 1,820.8, after a high of 1,821.2.

Abbey stood some 26p higher at 294 this afternoon, helped by news its total dividend for 1988 would rise 32 per cent to 13.5p and that it was planning a special dividend of 15p per share if the Lloyd's merger goes through.

The original proposal to sell five Lloyds businesses to Abbey in return for 57.6 per cent of the

life insurer was thwarted by 64.4 per cent of Abbey's shareholders earlier this month. Abbey is now proposing that the majority for a new vote on the deal be cut to 50 per cent from the previous 75 per cent.

The deal had been seen as biased to Lloyds but analysts said the higher dividends could help smooth objections.

A reappraisal of the quality of the Lloyds businesses, as well as the reduced majority requirement, means the new package is likely to receive shareholder approval, analysts said.

Another factor helping Abbey shares was its proposal to pay a total 1989 dividend of 17 per cent per share and keep dividends from 1990 onwards broadly in line with earnings per share.

Elsewhere in the insurance sector Pearl added 6p to 411. Refuge 5p to 448 and Sun Life 7p to 950. Insurance broker Sedgwick was 4p higher at 216 after nine months pre-tax profit came in at £70.8 million at the top end of forecasts.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Nov 22, (Reuters): Shares extended losses suffered over the past week as bearish sentiment continued to dominate the market. The All Ordinaries index slipped 4.1 to 1,478.8.

TOKYO: Prices closed firmer after recording small gains most of the day. The Nikkei index rose 145.86 to a record close of 29,430.12.

FRANKFURT: Shares closed above their lows of the day but still down as the latest fall in the dollar depressed the market. The Dax index fell 6.76 to 1,277.40.

ZURICH: Shares closed slightly higher across the board in

hectic trading as many bearer shares staged a technical recovery from Monday's sharp losses. The Swiss index rose 4.8 to 891.3.

BOMBAY: Exchange closed to let brokers settle outstanding business. The market will remain closed tomorrow for a Sikh religious festival. Trading resumes on Thursday.

SINGAPORE: The market rebounded on widespread bargain-hunting, encouraged by news of Singapore's increased exports in October. The Straits Times industrial index rose 6.75 to 999.52.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT ON NOV. 22/11

B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
5	Ion Abdoun	KSA	4843150
6	Ibn Al Roomi	KSA	4843150
8	Tug Abu Samir	Gulf Star	4845501
9	Barge Jubail	Gulf Star	4845501
15	Atlantic Reefer	Sager	2432692
17	Ansal Jiang	M. Bahar	2459891
19	Reefers Jambu	Gh & Q	4747815

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel
22/11	Sunday Cape	Gh & Q	4747815
22/11	Hual Carmencia	A.M. Bahar	2459891
22/11	Vasily Belokonko	Alrashed	2422026
23/11	Aleyandria	T. Cont	2436920
23/11	Great Liberty	ISA	2441860

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

B. No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel
3	UCO XVII	Sager Shaheen	2432692
10	Captain Ali	Sager	2432692
12	Korana	MA Bahar	2433881
NBH3	Tug Gulf Master	Sager Shaheen	2432692
NBH3	Barge Dong AH-303	Sager Shaheen	2432692

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel
21/11	Great Liberty	Al Kamal	2425437
25/11	Fax East Trader	MA Bahar	2459891
26/11	Dubai	UASC	4843150
27/11	Al Mirqab	UASC	4843150
28/11	Quincy	Barwil	4842988
1/12	Oktay Taarik	RSMIS	2432692
1/12	V.S. Prosperity	Al Kashed	2422026

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Alghanim Barwit Shipping Co. Kuwait, Alghanim Industries Building, Airport Road-Shuwaikh, Tel: 4842988 Ext. 3646.

Ministers could clinch a deal shortly

Oil prices surge as Aqazadeh sparks OPEC optimism

VIENNA, Nov 22, (Reuters): World petroleum prices jumped today after Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said he thought OPEC ministers meeting in Vienna could clinch a deal soon to rein in overproduction in a glutted market.

The Iranian minister's remarks were the first sign that six days of behind-the-scenes bargaining may have made progress in breaking a deadlock between Tehran and Baghdad over output and injected a sudden mood of optimism into world markets.

As the pace of negotiations went into top gear, Aqazadeh told reporters: "I think we can reach an agreement."

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries had set itself a deadline of Wednesday in its attempts to heal the rift between Iran and Iraq which has blocked a deal to limit oil production and restore the organisation's credibility on markets.

Consultations
OPEC's news agency OPECNA, quoting sources close to several delegations, said the intensive consultations among oil ministers today suggested the conference might be "moving towards a breakthrough."

It quoted the sources as saying the emphasis of the multilateral talks was on "a production agreement to which all member countries would be signatories."

OPEC President General Rihwanu Lukman told reporters he was optimistic that the organisation would reach an accord, but not necessarily as early as tomorrow.

Asked how an hour-long meeting with Iran's Aqazadeh had gone, he said: "They've gone

very well." Asked if he was now more optimistic than before, he said "very optimistic," adding the OPEC talks had "a very good chance of success."

In reply to a question about whether he thought an agreement could be reached by the next scheduled full ministerial OPEC meeting set for tomorrow morning, he said: "Tomorrow I don't know, we will see."

Jumped
North Sea Brent oil, the most widely traded international crude, jumped 35 cents a barrel for immediate delivery on Aqazadeh's remarks to \$12.50, or 50 cents above yesterday's close. Middle East crude prices, including the major OPEC grade Dubai, rose strongly.

Oil market analysts monitoring the OPEC talks in Vienna said it was too early to say whether an agreement was close, but one said: "Things look better than they did on Monday."

Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Hisham Nazer would not comment on whether OPEC had made a breakthrough or not.

When asked by reporters about Aqazadeh's comments, he said: "That's good news, if it is true."

Narrowed
Delegates said hard bargaining appeared to have narrowed the gap between the former Gulf war belligerents.

Despite Aqazadeh's remarks, it was not immediately clear if Iran was now ready to yield on the key issue of "production

parity", the main stumbling block in negotiations.

Libyan Oil Minister Fawzi Shakhshouk, one of the go-betweens in an increasingly fast-paced bout of talks, was also optimistic. "We discussed our problems we are on the way to solving them," he told reporters after a flurry of meetings.

OPEC has been grappling with the Iran-Iraq dispute since last Thursday, first within a small group of eight producers and since yesterday with all 13 organisation members gathered in Vienna.

Demand
Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi has flatly refused to negotiate on his demand for barrel-for-barrel production parity with Iran.

Iranian Minister Aqazadeh has so far refused to concede the demand, arguing that Iran has a far larger population and is historically a bigger producer.

An authoritative OPEC source told Reuters there were three possible outcomes tomorrow when ministers are due to meet in formal session at OPEC's Vienna headquarters.

— Agreement on a new production pact for 1989 incorporating Iran and Iraq. That would need breakthrough on the parity issue.

— A decision to take back detailed proposals for a deal to governments, with the prospect of returning to Vienna for a further meeting in a week to 10 days.

— A decision to meet again in January, tacit acknowledgement that a lot more work was needed

to seal a comprehensive deal.

Even if today's hotel-room bargaining fails to score a breakthrough, OPEC ministers appear determined to avoid the impression that a decision to pack their bags tomorrow should be seen on world markets as breaking up in disarray.

OPEC's key Middle East crude Dubai rose 25 cents in Europe this morning to \$10.15 per barrel, then added another 35 cents on Aqazadeh's statement and optimism expressed by OPEC President Rihwanu Lukman over an agreement.

Lukman told reporters two proposals were on the table and he held out hope a deal could be struck by the end of the week.

Despite the rise on world oil markets, Dubai is still about \$7 below the organisation's reference price set in 1986.

Mediators — in the forefront Algeria, Indonesia, Libya, Nigeria and Venezuela plus non-OPEC-Oman — have concentrated on persuading Iran to yield to Iraq's demand.

Flexibility

OPEC sources said Aqazadeh in an indication of flexibility, had offered to let a team of oil ministers or secretary-general Subroto decide on production levels for Iran and Iraq.

But the offer, made during negotiations in recent days, was conditional on Iran maintaining a higher level of output.

Iran's production ceiling is currently 2,369 million barrels a day, Iraq has refused, since December, 1986, to accept any

US consumer price rises 0.4pc

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (Reuters): US consumer price increases accelerated in October, rising 0.4 per cent after a 0.3 per cent gain in September as clothing prices jumped and energy prices stopped falling, the government said today.

So far this year the Labour Department's consumer price index, the most widely used measure of inflation, has risen at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.6 per cent, compared with a 4.4 per cent gain in 1987.

The October increase, which was above the 0.3 per cent gain expected by most Wall Street economists surveyed by Reuters, left the index for all urban consumers at 120.2 over its 1982-84 base of 100.

This means that a basket of goods that averaged \$100 between 1982 and 1984 cost \$120.20 in October.

Increases

Economists expect even bigger increases in the months ahead as upward price pressures intensify from a tightening job market, costlier imported goods, and a strong economy that will complete six full years of growth at the end of this month.

With US factories, mines and utilities using 84 per cent of their available capacity last month and some industries operating at near full capacity, economists are concerned that production bottlenecks could lead to price increases.

Other sources of inflation are the weaker dollar, which makes imported goods more expensive, and last month's 5.3 per cent unemployment rate, which matches a 14-year low and could lead to a pick-up in wage increases, they said.

Rates

As a result, financial markets are concerned that the Federal Reserve Board, the US central bank, will raise interest rates by the end of the year to cool the economy and keep a lid on inflation.

Excluding food and energy

prices, which tend to fluctuate widely from month to month, consumer prices rose 0.5 per cent in October after climbing 0.4 per cent in September, the department said. Over the past 12 months this so-called core rate of inflation has risen 4.5 per cent.

Drop

Energy prices, which helped ease inflationary pressure in September by falling 0.6 per cent,

rose 0.1 per cent in October because of gains in natural gas and electricity prices.

Petrol prices fell 1.1 per cent last month following a 1.7 per cent drop in September, leaving them 1.8 per cent below their October 1987 level.

Food price increases slowed to 0.2 per cent in October after a 0.8 per cent September gain as the effects of last summer's drought began to wane.

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Investcorp arranges sale of Club Car

INVESTCORP announced yesterday that it has arranged, on behalf of a group of international investors, the sale of Club Car, Inc. to Club Car Holdings Corp., a company formed by Kelso & Company and the senior management of Club Car.

Kelso, a private investment banking firm with offices in New York and California, specialises in leveraged buyouts.

Club Car, located in Augusta, Georgia, USA is the leading domestic independent designer and manufacturer of gas and electric powered golf cars.

Club Car is recognised as the premier brand name in the golf car industry with respect to excellence of design, reliability and performance.

Club Car is estimated to hold close to 30 per cent of the domestic golf car market.

Experience

Savio Tung, a member of Investcorp's Management Committee, said: "Club Car's senior management team collectively has over 100 years of experience in the golf car industry and, as a team, has guided the company to its strong current market position. Club Car has achieved an outstanding historical record of consistent growth and profitability."

Tung continued, "It has been a pleasure to be associated with Club Car and its management. Our partnership has been successful in every respect."

"It has been especially rewarding for us to see the growth of Club Car's younger management throughout this period. We believe Kelso will be a good partner to the Club Car management team and we wish the new company every success."

Improved financial indices to give boost to market

KUWAIT, Nov 22, (KUNA): Kuwait's Stock Market was expected to flourish in the foreseeable future due to improvement in economic and financial indices in the country, a market expert here forecast today.

Director-general and vice-chairman of the Kuwait Stock Market Committee Hisham Al Oteibi told Al Seyassah that one of the most significant indications of the expected flourishing was the remarkably growth witnessed by real estate sector during the past period.

He attributed the recent increase in real estate prices to direct and indirect governmental subsidies through the expropriation programmes that fall annually within the government's plans.

Al Oteibi said the prices of shares went down because they were not receiving similar subsidy like real estate and also due to the financial institutions' fears of granting loans on stock guarantees.

He said a new system for defeated payment of stocks would be applied in the stock market shortly as all basis arrangements for its introduction had already been finalised.

He stressed that the Kuwait bourse is considered the best of Arab stock exchanges as far as legal and organisational structures are concerned.

Cement production

LAGOS, Nov 22, (OPECNA): Production from Nigeria's seven cement factories totalled 3.50 million tonnes last year out of an installed capacity of 5.25 million tonnes, it was announced.

Bendel Cement Company general manager James Erhuro said that the output level accounted for about 73 per cent of total national demand.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Paper aviation — no child's play

The art of making paper planes is a science to Dr Ninomiya, a retired Japanese engineer whose books on paper-airplane design are best-sellers in Japan. He spends more than 10 hrs a day building, flying and photographing them.

By Owen Thomas

BOSTON: The sensei (master) of paper airplanes can't recall anything unexpected happening while flying one. "Always, something expected happens," Yasuaki Ninomiya explains. But the question prompts a reminiscence from Dr Ninomiya, a retired Japanese engineer whose books on paper-airplane design are best sellers in Japan. It's the story of the roots of his fame.

On Christmas Eve 1966, his wife spotted a tiny newspaper item: The First Great International Paper Airplane Contest, sponsored by Scientific American magazine, was to be held in America the next month. Any Japanese who wanted to enter a plane could bring it to the Pan Am office and Pan Am would fly it to the US for free.

"Since I had been making (paper) airplanes from childhood," says Ninomiya, "I made racing planes and put eight of them in a box so as not to be broken, and asked Pan Am to send them." His planes — among the nearly 12,000 entries from 28 countries — arrived in good time to compete in the Pacific Basin division of the contest, held in San Francisco.

Beautiful

The rest is paper-aviation history.

"I won the grand prize in both duration and distance flights," reports Ninomiya (who requested written questions, and responded enthusiastically in kind — and in Japanese). "Since then, I've been living with paper airplanes. The small article was the beginning. I am thankful to my wife." A recent photo shows a delighted Ninomiya

posing in a room of his Yokohama home. The ceiling is thick with parked airplanes, hanging like sleek, white bats from their paper noses. He's been making "kami hikokki" for more than half a century now.

"I am one of those airplane fans who think an airplane is the most beautiful work of art a human has ever created," he says. "I like everything that relates to airplanes — from a real plane, to a model airplane, to movies in which an airplane appears." He has built rubber-band-powered planes, gas-powered models, and radio-controlled craft. He pilots a real one.

For 30 years, Ninomiya worked to develop microwave communications for Nippon Telegraph & Telephone. But the prizes he won in 1967 inspired him to bend his research skills toward another development project: the paper airplane. Not surprisingly, he couldn't find a job doing that. But he concluded that "it is a suitable theme for one person to pursue." So he did. "Making a paper airplane became a job from just a mere hobby."

Today, he has the closest thing to a job perfecting paper airplanes. In 1976, the president of AG Industries in Osaka, Japan, met with Ninomiya after seeing his seven-volume "Collection of High Performance Paper Planes," three million copies of which have been sold in Japan in the last 15 years. Ninomiya became exclusive designer for AG Industries' White Wings gliders, paper airplane kits distributed in the United States by the company's subsidiary in Redmond, Wash.

In 1985, Ninomiya served as one of five judges at the Second Great International Paper Air-

plane Contest, held in Seattle. Since he retired in 1984, paper planes have been Ninomiya's career. He spends more than 10 hours a day building, flying, and photographing them.

These are not the folded-paper darts you threw crookedly across third-period study-hall. Carefully built, Ninomiya's laminated-paper models can be launched with a rubber-band catapult to soar for half a minute or more. Given just the right conditions of wind and launch, a flight of more than 10 minutes is possible.

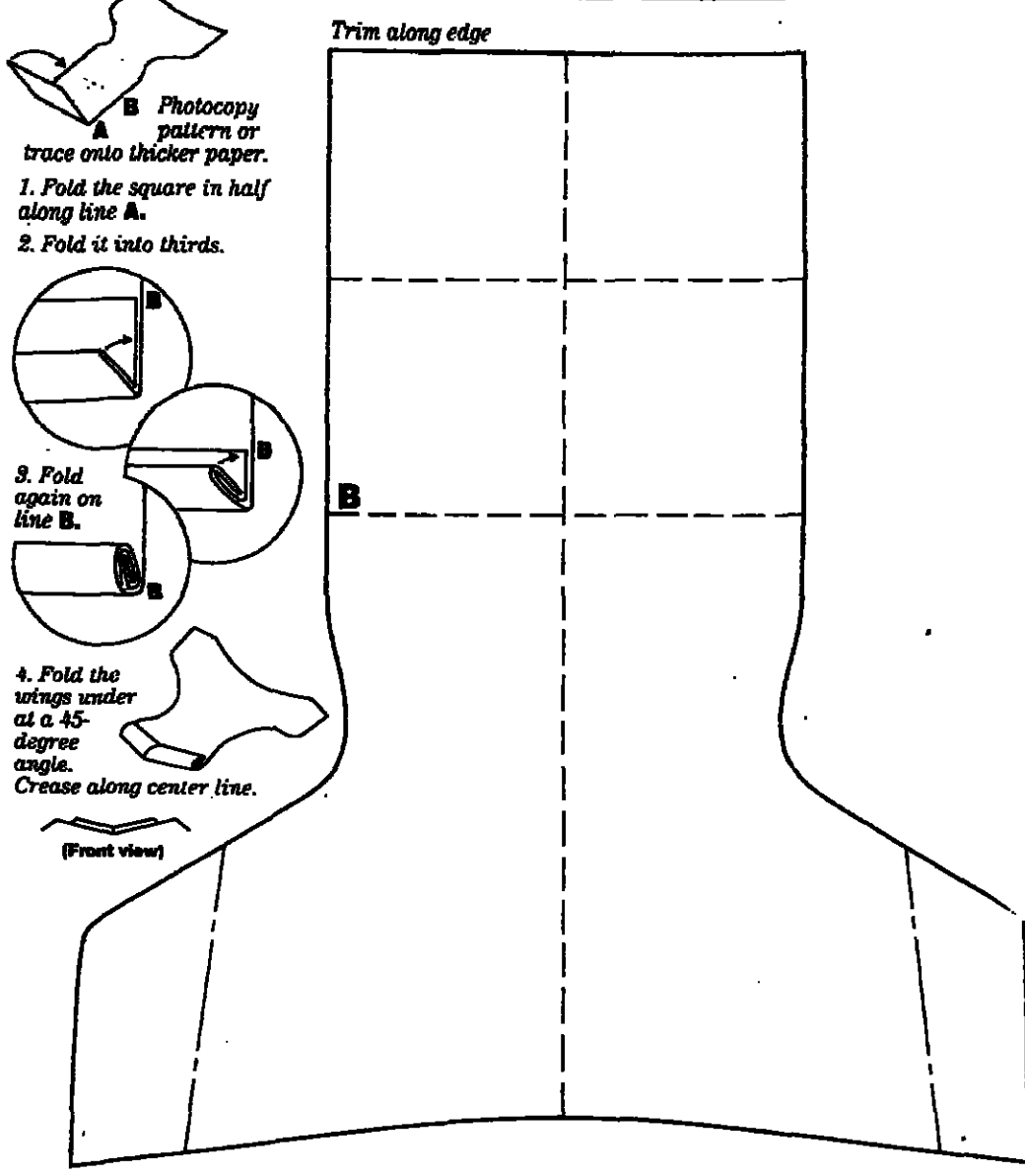
"If you really want to experience, first hand, the joy of flight," he says, "I believe the most exciting opportunity available to most of us is to fly a miniature plane that you've made by your own efforts. That is why I highly recommend that you make and fly your own paper airplanes."

Advice

Such advice has certainly been heeded in his native country. Japanese swept eight of the 10 first prizes in the Second Great International Paper Airplane Contest three years ago. The Kinura Cup paper-airplane competition is held twice yearly in Tokyo, sponsored by a famous Japanese aircraft designer, Hideyama Kinura. Hundreds of paper-flight enthusiasts gather every other month or so in several Japanese cities. Ninomiya is host to a monthly outing in Tokyo to fly planes and instruct beginners.

According to a newspaper survey this spring, flying paper airplanes ranks fourth among Japanese boys as an outdoor activity, and seventh among Japanese children overall. Ninomiya traces this popularity in part to the good showing made by Japanese entrants in the

A NINOMIYA DESIGN: CLIP IT, FOLD IT, FLY IT



1967 contest.

Many books on paper flight were published in Japan in the ensuing years, and more sophisticated laminated-paper designs evolved from folded-paper models. Japan's origami (paper folding) tradition also plays a part. Far from being an activity only for children, adults also participate in this hobby in Japan.

The science that a knowledgeable adult can apply to a simple delight can be seen in Dr Ninomiya's response to the question, "What are the keys to

designing a paper airplane that performs well?"

(Non-aerophysicists may want to skip the next paragraph.)

"A real high-performance glider has a glide ratio of about 50 and a sinking speed around 0.5 metre a second," he says. "On the other hand, since the Reynolds number of a paper airplane is smaller than that of a real aircraft by more than double figures, the gliding ratio of a paper plane is expected to reach only six or seven due to heavy air drag. But as far as the sink-

ing speed is concerned, a lightweight paper airplane can have the speed of about 0.5 to one metre a second, almost the same as that of a real high-performance glider."

The simpler answer: "The most important things in designing a real or a model aircraft are making the air drag as low as possible and making the airplane lightweight and solid."

To anyone interested in designing paper planes, he recommends the study of basic aerodynamics.

The Christian Science Monitor.

A major advance in personal computing

By Roger Highfield

RECENTLY, Wang Laboratories in the UK unveiled a major advance in personal computing: a system that puts the contents of a desk on screen in facsimile — handwritten documents are rendered realistically — rather than emblematically — enabling them to be manipulated and annotated in handwriting with the help of an electronic pencil. Additionally, a telephone records verbal comments.

Documents are fed into ("captured" in the jargon) the Freestyle system with a scanner, a device that converts a document or pictures into digital form.

Stamp-sized versions of captured pages can be enlarged, annotated, stored, stapled together, faxed, or filed at the touch of the electronic pencil on a desktop tablet.

Freestyle is not a computer, but a package of software and hardware to work with existing personal computers. It frees the user from the keyboard and abstract computer commands by using forms of communica-

tion we are naturally used to: you can put information into the computer by writing on the tablet or by talking to the machine.

Wang says the package is as easy to use as scribbling on paper or chatting on the telephone.

Dr Stephen Levine, who heads Wang's design effort, showed how one person could call a table of numbers from a cost proposal onto a screen, circle key figures using the pen and then comment on them using the telephone.

He then played it back and, as the pencil-like lines marked a figure on the screen, his voice came out of the computer repeating: "If we can hit this number we will do it."

The company believes it will help users (known as "knowledge workers" in its jargon) to communicate because it will allow them to attach their comments directly to documents in whichever form is best suited: handwritten, typed or spoken.

The system, which consists of the tablet, pen, handset, and the necessary software, runs on Wang PCs or any IBM-compatible personal computer.



Creepy-crawly fast food!

By Dianne Molvig

MADISON, Wis.: At 6 o'clock in the morning, the phone rang in Gene DeFoliart's home. His wife answered, still half asleep, only to be bombarded with the oo-perky voice of an East Coast radio announcer. "Good morning," he chirped. "Are you the wife of the professor who eats bugs?"

That sort of thing has happened a few times lately, ever since word began to spread about Dr DeFoliart's efforts to advocate using insects as food.

"Some people get caught up with the 'creepy crawler' aspect of this," laments DeFoliart, an entomology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Although some people see it as "weird," he couldn't be more serious about it. He is, for example, what's happening in parts of Africa, where locusts are wiping out crops. Rather than killing them with insecticides, DeFoliart says, "I'm convinced locusts could be harvested and used for food."

That might be food for insects — or for humans.

"This isn't something we're trying to cram down the throats of people because they're weird," DeFoliart emphasizes. "Insects are already widely available everywhere in the Third World as food for humans — over Africa, Asia, South America, and in Mexico. People like them. They're an old, traditional food."

What's more, he says, insects are nutritious, being high in protein ("as good as or better than conventional meat"), rich energy, vitamins, and minerals.

DeFoliart is concerned that the world's people who now add insects to their diet could do so, despite the ever-rising acculturation to Western ideas. Besides providing essential nutrition, insects

could bolster rural economies, because rural people could sell them to urban markets.

In countries where insects are not commonly eaten by humans, DeFoliart wants to promote them as animal feed. For example, he's working on a joint project with Nepalese scientists to look at ways to use a large cricket, which the Nepalese don't eat even though many other Asians do.

He thinks the crickets could be harvested and fed to chickens, as a substitute for the expensive, imported fish meal that Nepalese farmers now use as chicken feed.

DeFoliart knows of about 500 insect species that are used as human food somewhere in the world. For example, termites are commonly eaten in most parts of Africa.

"Two or three times a year, termites will come out in huge numbers," says DeFoliart. "People go out with their buckets to trap and collect them. It's a big occasion."

Water bugs, about three inches long, are a favourite in Asia, where people prepare and eat them as Americans do lobster.

The eggs of another type of water bug are a delicacy in Mexico. While city-dwelling Mexicans eat the eggs, which are sometimes called Mexican caviar and are available in the finest restaurants, country dwellers often eat the whole bug.

Silkworm pupae in China, caterpillars in Africa, grasshoppers in Asia — the list could go on. People around the world boil, roast, and fry insects, consuming them as part of dinner or a between-meal snack.

"Frequently insects are used in relishes," says DeFoliart, "and are mixed with corn or whatever vegetable may be available. It's the insects that give flavour and pizzazz."

Why aren't insects relished in the Western world? Long ago, they were.

The ancient Greeks ate

insects. Records show that Aristotle and other learned members of Greek society debated how to cook cicadas. The Romans ate a wood worm beetle.

American Indians, mostly in what are now the Western states, ate caterpillars, cicadas, crickets, and grasshoppers. But those food customs, unlike some others, never caught on with the early white explorers and settlers.

"There are humorous incidents in literature talking about early explorers and pioneers being fed these delights," says DeFoliart. "They really liked them... until they found out what they were."

For some reason, the Western aversion to eating insects is deep-seated. "It's hard to explain why," says DeFoliart, "except that we've had a stable agriculture for so long, we haven't had to go out and gather food in the fields and forests."

"In many of the populations where insects are still used as food, people are still hunters and gatherers — at least partly. They're used to going out to get whatever food they can — and insects are part of that."

The influence of agricultural groups may also figure in Westerners' tendency to squirm at the thought of eating insects, DeFoliart says.

"It's the idea that if you see an insect, spray it. That the only good insect is a dead insect," he says.

He hopes to change that attitude.

"We're not trying to convince people that they should eat insects," he says. "But we need to recognize that insects are important as food elsewhere in the world. Plus, they're ecologically sound as a food source. They're much more sound than, say, cutting down the rain forests to raise cattle. And nutritionally, they're just as good."

1988, The Christian Science Monitor.

Scientists discover undersea hot spring

By Randolph E. Schmid

WASHINGTON, (AP): Scientists probing the sea floor off the coast of Oregon have discovered a new field of hot springs, mineral deposits and exotic animal life, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced recently.

The area offers a new frontier for scientific exploration, according to Peter Rona, chief scientist for the team.

Rona has led NOAA's deep-sea explorations in both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans in recent years, discovering a variety of volcanic hot springs in both oceans as well as exotic tube worms and other life forms.

The new finds were made along an underwater mountain range called the Gorda Ridge, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) off the Oregon coast. The scientists went as deep as 10,000 feet (3 kilometres) using a Navy deep submergence vehicle.

The finding will allow scientists "to study first-hand how sea-floor hot springs from metallic mineral deposits, support exotic forms of life and influence the ocean environment," Rona said.

Water temperatures in the hot springs were measured as high as 500 degrees Fahrenheit (260 degrees Celsius).

Rona said that in the area large plates in the earth's crust are being pulled and cracked, allowing sea water to contact with volcanic rocks.

The heated water leaches metals from the rock and deposits them on the sea floor. Thickets of tube worms topped with bright red plumes, are growing around the hot springs, the scientists said. In addition, they found crabs, octopuses, deep-sea fish and other life forms.

These deep-water vents in the sea floor were only discovered a few years ago when Rona and other scientists began investigating the waters around the United States after President Ronald Reagan proclaimed an exclusive economic zone offshore.

Giant telescope may reveal secrets of galaxy

By Geoffrey Craig

SYDNEY, (Reuters): The secrets of our galaxy may soon be uncovered from a quiet dusty spot in the Australian countryside.

The Australian Telescope, opened last month at Culgoora, 350 km (220 miles) north-west of Sydney, may possibly solve the long-standing puzzle of whether a black hole lies at the centre of the Milky Way galaxy.

Black holes are believed to be fields of such strong gravitational pull — presumably where a star has collapsed — that matter and energy cannot escape.

The radio telescope is the most powerful in the Southern Hemisphere.

Its radio waves can penetrate the fine dust that bars optical telescopes from viewing the heart of the Milky Way, which passes over Australia but is barely visible in the Northern Hemisphere.

The telescope, which cost \$40 million and took 10 years of planning, will also study the large magellanic cloud, at 170,000 light years away, the nearest neighbour to the Milky Way.

Supernovas, or exploding star remnants, and quasars, believed to be the active nuclear regions of very distant galaxies, will come under its scrutiny.

The nearest quasar is 2,000 million light years away and emits almost a million times the



radio output of our own galaxy.

The Australian telescope was built by the Commonwealth Scientific Research Organisation (CSIRO) in conjunction with Australian private industries.

CSIRO senior astronomer David Jauncey said the telescope would help to understand the structure of the universe as a whole.

It has six 22-metre dishes linked by fibre-optic cables. Five of them move along a

three-km (1.9-mile) track while the other is stationary three km away.

The dishes are spread out along the track according to what you want to look at. The further they are spread out, the greater distance the telescope can view," Jauncey said.

Radio signals from outer space are captured on the surface of each dish to be sent through fibre-optic cables to a computer at the nerve centre of the telescope complex.

The convex C-120 computer analyses radio data and produces clear images, which are then relayed to science laboratories in Sydney.

The dishes can be linked to other radio telescopes across Australia, including the Parkes 64-metre dish 320 km (200 miles) further south to form one of the largest networks in the world.

The network, once linked to other antennae around the globe and space telescopes orbiting the earth, would be up to 10,000 times better than the best optical telescopes now in operation and could effectively form antennae larger than the earth, Jauncey said.

Only about 12 people will operate the telescope, said Dennis Cooper, CSIRO chief of radioastronomy.

The data collection will include some which could be useful for defence operations.

"It adds to our pool of knowledge about transmitting military signals and the operation of defence satellites," Cooper said.

The telescope has also contributed to technological spin-offs, particularly in the space and communications industries.

"The communications satellites that were used for the America's Cup yacht races were the result of the technology gained from the Australia telescope project," Jauncey said.

Down-to-earth 'spinoffs' from space technology

By Vincent del Giudice

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, (UPI): NASA, flying high after the re-birth of its shuttle programme, is calling attention to a long list of technological achievements stemming from space exploration.

"Down to earth applications of NASA-derived technology have improved the quality of life," the space agency said.

"These 'spinoffs' have improved resources in such diverse fields as search and rescue life-saving, health, sports, wildlife research, pollution control, archaeology and the environment."

Some of these achievements are obvious.

Weather satellites, for example, have been circling the globe for the last quarter century,

improving daily and long-range forecasting and warning of hurricanes and other severe weather.

Other achievements are not so obvious.

Technology from the Apollo moon Rover, which criss-crossed the lunar surface, "is being applied to a system that offers severely handicapped people an opportunity to drive," NASA said.

The unistik vehicle control system utilizes a joystick that combines the functions of a steering wheel, brake pedal and throttle pedal.

The driver simply moves the joystick forward to accelerate, backward to brake and from side-to-side for steering," the space agency said.

"Any combination of these movements can be used."

Space technology has also

led to the development of a voice-controlled wheelchair for people suffering from paralysis or a severe handicap. The system is built around a voice command analyzer programmed to recognise commands in the user's voice pattern.

The list of space 'spinoffs' also includes:

- Advanced hospital X-ray systems.
- Weather satellites that help locate ships and airplanes in distress as part of an international search and rescue programme.
- Running shoes, based on Apollo moon Boot, technology that ease foot and leg stress and discomfort.
- New sunglasses that cut down on ultraviolet rays.
- An advanced solar water heating system.

- Sewage monitors used by more than 2,000 cities.
- Research and testing on a "carotid artery cuff" for help people with dangerous fluctuations in their blood pressure.
- A scalp cooling device that helps retard hair loss on cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.
- Cockpit 'cool suits' for race car drivers.
- Improved breathing apparatus and flame-retardant clothing for firefighters and paramedics.

Other achievements stemming from space exploration have led to laser heart surgery, water recycling systems and dental braces that use a new type of highly elastic arch wire material called 'nitinol' which reduces the number of brace changes.

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RUGBY

Thistles aim to sting in Gulf tourney

DUBAI: The Cambrian Thistles, one of the star-studded sides appearing in the Gulf's biggest international rugby sevens tournament, have arrived in Dubai and are ready to provide stiff opposition in the event hosted by Dubai Exiles.

The multi-talented squad, which includes some of British rugby's leading names, flew in from London to take part in the two day challenge, sponsored by Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, in association with MMI, and beginning tomorrow.

Cambrian Thistles will be one of the teams to watch in the new Emirates International Trophy, while 16 of the premier Gulf sides including teams from the UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain will battle it out for the Gulf knockout title and a place in the prestigious Hong Kong Sevens tournament.

Leading the Thistles challenge is tour manager Alasdair MacIachair. Moments after arriving in Dubai, the former Scotland star spoke of his team's chances in the competition.

"We are all well aware of how tough the Dubai Exiles seven-side is, but we have a number of top British players in our squad including three of the Bristol side that won the Middlesex Sevens, former England captain Mike Harrison, and Scott Hastings, one of Scotland's best young international players, so we have a good chance of doing well," he said.

Visiting the sevens for the first time, MacIachair has seen a great amount of top-class rugby action. Over a period of twelve years the uncompromising Scots was capped 44 times for his country and his experience will be an added boost for the Thistles in their attempts to land the Emirates International Trophy.

Their first match, set for 4.10 on Thursday afternoon, promises to be one of the matches of the day. Their opponents are the Bahrain-based Warblers, the side which regularly features a strong contingent of rugby's All Blacks.

Mancini to fight again after 4 years

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (UPI): Former lightweight champion Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini will fight for the first time in four years March 6, taking on undefeated Hector Camacho in Reno, Nevada, the bout's promoter said yesterday.

Mancini, 29-3 with 23 knockouts, held the World Boxing Association lightweight title from 1982-84. The 27-year-old from Youngstown, Ohio, last fought Feb 16, 1985, when he suffered a second straight loss to Livingstone Bramble.

Held
Camacho, 26, of Puerto Rico, is 33-0 with 16 knockouts and once held the World Boxing Council lightweight title. The 12-round fight at a total purse of over \$2 million and will be broadcast on a closed-circuit and pay-per-view basis, promoter Lou Falcigno said. The fighters are scheduled to meet at the 140-pound limit.

Asim reach semifinals

ASIM Cricket Club reached the semifinals of the Shabbir Memorial Trophy with an eight-wicket victory over Lucky Star at the EPI ground earlier this week. Lucky Star, after winning the toss, batted first but were only able to muster 179 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 30 overs. They had got a good start from their openers who put on 60 runs for the first wicket before Wasim was out for 25, bowled by Rashed.

Difficulty
Arif played well for his 77 while Ahab hit 24. For Asim, Wasim took two wickets for 28

Al Hilal edge Unity for title

AL HILAL Hockey Club outplayed Unity 2-0 in the long-delayed final of the 1987 Al Hilal Cup final to take the trophy at the Hockey Grounds in Ahmadi earlier this week.

Al Hilal's Gohar and Zubair were a treat to watch. Both of them put in an excellent performance while the Unity players were not up to the mark on that day.

Rival
Unity missed their centre-half Afra and found it difficult to co-ordinate their moves. Although Liaquat, Nasir and Ifthikhar raided the Al Hilal goal, they found the rival defence too strong.

Gohar scored the first goal for Al Hilal off a pass he received

PAKISTAN SKIPPER SEEKS TEAM CHANGES

Imran spurns captaincy



Imran: wants time to work out his strategy

ISLAMABAD, Nov 22, (Reuters): Imran Khan has refused to captain Pakistan on the forthcoming cricket tours of Australia and New Zealand until changes are made in the team, the official APP news agency reported yesterday.

Pakistan named Imran last week as captain in place of Javed Miandad, who skipped Pakistan in their 1-0 series win at home over Australia. Imran was not available to play against the Australians.

"Unfortunately I find myself incapable of accepting the job unless changes are made in the team," APP quoted Imran as saying on return from a four-day visit to India.

Announce
Imran said he had asked the chairman of the cricket board selection committee not to announce the team before consulting him on his return.

"I wanted time to work out my strategy for the team combination required for the Australian tour," Imran said.

Imran did not say what changes he wanted and no comment was available from the board or the selectors.

Senior selector Intikhab Alam announced the 17-man squad last Thursday, saying it had been chosen in consultation with Imran and vice-captain Miandad.

Match-winning leg-spinner Abdul Qadir has opted out of the tour for what Intikhab called family reasons.

The tour to Australia runs from December 1 to January 18 and the visit to New Zealand from January 20 to March 16.

Pakistan are to take part in the limited overs World Series Cup in Australia, with the host country and West Indies, before going to New Zealand where they play three Tests.

The team that was announced earlier this week by Intikhab was: Imran Khan (captain), Javed Miandad (vice-captain), Mudassar Nazar, Salim Malik, Rameez Raja, Moinul Atiq, Salim Yousuf, Tauseef Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Salim Jaffer, Saeed Anwar, Sajid Ali, Wasim Haider, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohsin Kamal, Aamer Malik, Ejaz Ahmed.

Mushtaq Ahmed is the replacement for Qadir. He is an excellent leg spinner and came to prominence during the tour by England last year.

Among the unfamiliar names in the party, Wasim Haider is a medium-pace bowler and useful lower-order batsman. Intikhab said that he had the right attitude towards the game and hoped that he would improve during the tour.

49ers brush aside Redskins

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 22, (AP): John Taylor returned a punt 95 yards for a touchdown and Joe Montana accounted for three scores, sparking San Francisco to a 37-21 victory over Washington last night.

The loss put the Redskins in peril of becoming the ninth straight National Football League champion to fail to repeat.

In a battle of survival involving the NFL's winningest teams of the 1980s, the 49ers prevailed, thanks in large part to Taylor's return. It was the first of two touchdowns in the final 4:24 of the second quarter.

Washington, 6-6, lost for the third time in four games and fell to fourth in the NFC East behind Phoenix, Philadelphia and the New York Giants, all 7-5. Washington, plagued by mistakes all year, turned the ball over four times last night.

Standings				
American Conference				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	T	PF
X-Buffalo	11	1	0	252
New England	7	5	0	196
Indianapolis	6	6	0	226
New York	5	6	1	239
Miami	5	7	0	195
Central Division				
Cincinnati	9	3	0	360
Houston	8	4	0	301
Cleveland	7	5	0	204
Pittsburgh	2	10	0	229

Western Division

Denver	6	6	0	237
Los Angeles	6	6	0	219
Seattle	6	6	0	212
San Diego	4	8	0	167
Kansas City	3	8	1	181

National Conference				
Eastern Division				
New York	7	5	0	253
Philadelphia	7	5	0	219
Phoenix	7	5	0	282
Washington	6	6	0	278
Dallas	2	10	0	196
Central Division				
Chicago	10	2	0	253
Minnesota	8	4	0	304
Detroit	3	9	0	168
Tampa Bay	3	9	0	213
Green Bay	2	10	0	182
Western Division				
New Orleans	9	3	0	270
Los Angeles	7	5	0	300
San Francisco	7	5	0	262
Atlanta	4	8	0	208

Rockets overcome Hawks

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (AP): Roundup of National Basketball Association games last night:

Rockets 117, Hawks 113
Sleepy Floyd scored five of his 20 points in the final 2 minutes and 20 seconds of play to spark the Houston Rockets to 117-113 victory over the Atlanta Hawks. Floyd also contributed 12 assists as Houston had six players in double figures. Buck Johnson and Akeem Olatunji each had 18 points, while Otis Thorpe added 16, Tony Brown 14 and Mike Woodson 13. Olatunji also had 14 rebounds.

Atlanta, 6-4, was led by

Dominique Wilkins with 29 points, Reggie Miller with 26 points and Moses Malone with 10 points and 17 rebounds.

Jazz 117, Clippers 98
John Stockton scored 22 points, had 15 assists and four steals to lead the Utah Jazz to a 117-98 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers. Darrell Griffith had 25 points, Thurl Bailey 24 and Karl Malone 23 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz. Rookies Danny Manning and Charles Smith led the Clippers with 21 and 19 points, respectively.

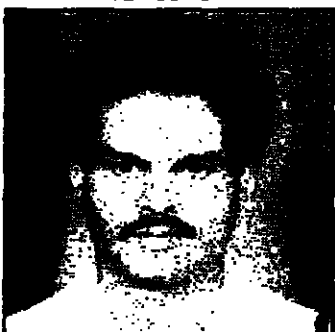
Hubbell dies

SCOTSDALE, Arizona, Nov 22, (AP): Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Hubbell, who won 246 games and was perhaps best remembered from his consecutive strike outs of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmy Fox, Al Simmons and Joe Cronin, has died. He was 85.

Hubbell died at Scottsdale Memorial Hospital yesterday, two days after he was injured when he lost control of his car near his Mesa home and struck a pole.

Nicknamed "King Carl" and "The Mail Ticket," the left-handed pitcher compiled a 253-154 record during his 16-year career.

Al Ahli Bank take OKCC to task



Sandeep: unbeaten 38

AL AHLI Bank thrashed OKCC by seven wickets in a Group A match of the Lions Trophy cricket tournament at the Yarmouk grounds earlier this week. OKCC batsmen were all out for 77. They were never comfortable against some accurate bowling from M. Salim and S. Ayub.

Salim took four wickets while Ayub took three, Jorim two and A. Ghulamaly one.

Al Ahli lost an early wicket but Sandeep, with an unbeaten 38, and Salim (23) hammered the OKCC bowlers and took them to victory. Al Ahli lost three wickets only before they crossed the target required for victory.

Al Ahli now meet Bombay Youth on Dec 2.



Patterson to be fit for 2nd Test against Aussies

BRISBANE, Australia, Nov 22, (Reuters): Australia, still in shock following their nine-wicket defeat in the first Test, received more bad news today when they learned West Indies pacesman Patrick Patterson would be fit for the second Test.

Patterson, reputed to be the fastest bowler in cricket, bowled just 19 balls in the first Test in Brisbane before hobbling off the field with a knee injury.

Unlikely

The other three prongs of the touring side's pace attack, Malcolm Marshall, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh picked up 19 of the 20 Australian wickets to fall.

Team physiotherapist Dennis Waight said Patterson was unlikely to play in the four-day match against Victoria starting on Friday but should be fit for the second Test in Perth from December 2.

"He has improved out of sight in the past couple of days. He did a bit of bowling in the nets yesterday and pulled up fine," Waight said.

West Indies captain Viv Richards is expected to be fit to play against Victoria after recovering from aggravating an old ankle injury on the final day of the Test.

The Victorian match offers Dean Jones a gilt-edged opportunity to reclaim his batting place in the Australian side.

Jones, made 12th man in Brisbane after a poor run with the bat, is first in line to replace Graeme Wood who is expected to be dropped after two failures in the first Test which ended yesterday.

Australian pacesman Bruce Reid returned to grade cricket over the weekend but will not be fit in time for the second Test at his home ground in Perth.

US and Soviet Union agree to test athletes in training

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (Reuters): The United States and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement that could lead to drug testing of US and Soviet athletes in training, the New York Times reported today.

The agreement, which is subject to approval by both National Olympic Committees, outlines a plan that would subject athletes of one country to drug testing by officials of the other country twice a year, the newspaper said.

The document was signed by Baaron Pittenger, executive director of the United States Olympic Committee, and Vasily Gromyko, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for physical culture and sports, it said.

Approval of the agreement would mark a major attempt by each country to eliminate use of performance-enhancing drugs like anabolic steroids, and would help ease athletes' suspicions that opponents are benefiting from the substances.

The Times quoted hurdler Edwin Moses, one of four Americans who negotiated the agreement, as saying: "As we develop more details, I think we can begin to reduce the paranoia between our athletes and those in the Soviet Union."

Logistical details were not included in the document, but both Pittenger and Gromyko said they expected no problems in settling the details and winning approval, the Times said.

Unity and Starlite triumph

UNITY thrashed Al Mulla by 111 runs while Starlite crushed Bright Stars by 104 runs in the Gulf Engineering Trophy matches at Ahmadi earlier this week.

A splendid century from Ejaz (123), made with the help of 13 fours and two sixes, along with Inam's 42 and Denzil's 28 saw Unity pile up 208 for three in 24 overs.

Ghazanfar of Al Mulla took two wickets. Al Mulla, in reply, could manage only 97 runs in 20 overs. Shafqat 28, Renny 21 and Ifthikhar with 15 were the only batsmen to get into the double figures.

For Unity, Inam and Merwyn took three wickets each.

In the second match, Starlite batted first and hammered Bright Stars for 206 for the loss of only seven wickets in 20 overs. Aejaz was unbeaten on 42. Shehzad scored 33, Qayyum 30 and Maqsood 26.

Bright Stars were unable to face either the spin or pace attack of Starlite, crumbling to 106 for six in the allotted 20 overs. Only Arun with 23 and Robin (unbeaten on 26) put up any resistance.

Shehzad and Bader took two wickets each while Maqbool and Aejaz got one each.

Royal and Premier score easy victories

ROYAL Cricket Club beat Sialkot XI by five wickets, Premier outclassed Cantt B by 56 runs and Salmiya were given a walkover by Qais Al Ghanim in the second round of the Cantt Challenge Cup cricket tournament at the New Salmiya ground on Friday.

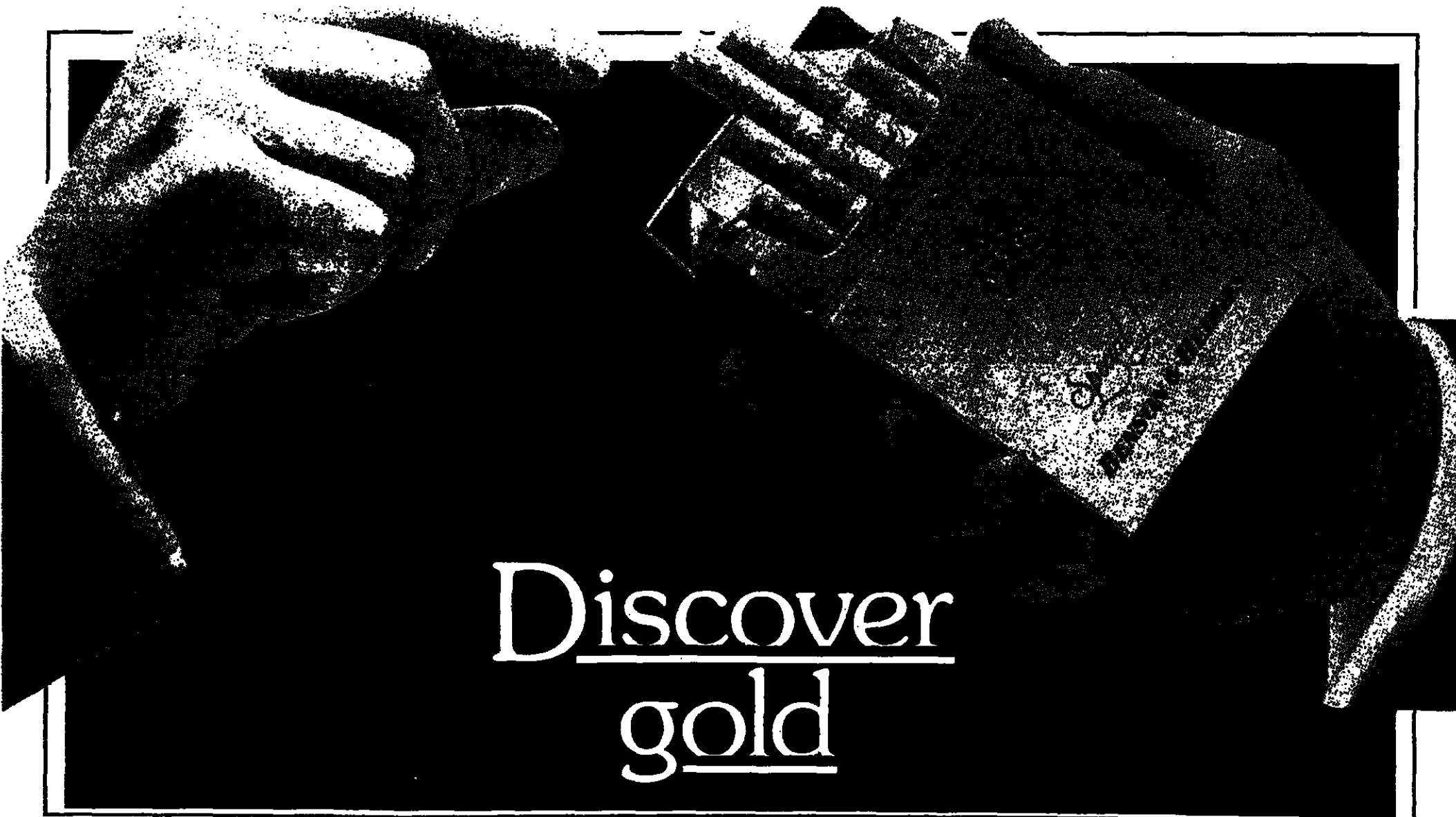
In the first match, Sialkot batted first and were all out for 127. Farooq was the top scorer with 39 while Mohsin got 24 and Jawaid 20. For Royal, Wasem took three wickets while Asghar, Qaiser and Raja got one each.

In reply, Royal got the required runs by the 24th over for the loss of only five wickets. Ayub top-scored with 40. Shaheen chipped in with 29, Zahed 15, Qaiser 14 and Asghar 12. For Sialkot, Riaz claimed three wickets while Arshad and Naveen got one each.

In the second match, Premier could only manage 111 for the loss of seven wickets in 25 overs. Anura scored 27, Victor 24 and Thomas 17. For Cantt B, Abbas took three wickets while Shariq and Darryl got one wicket each.

Cantt were only able to manage 55 runs. For Premier took four wickets while Nakaka got three and Rohan one.

In the third match, Salmiya got a walkover after Qais Al Ghanim failed to appear for their match.



Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

مركز الأمل

Platini to play in Kuwait

MICHEL PLATINI, who was appointed coach of the French national football team last week, will arrive in Kuwait on Saturday.

The former French football star and twice European Footballer of the Year will also play for Kuwait in a friendly match against Soviet Union at the Al Arabi Stadium on Sunday, Nov 27 at 5.00 pm.

Platini is one of the best players produced by any country over the last decade. He twice led the French national team into the semifinals of the World Cup — in 1982 and 1986.

Retired
He was also the main force behind France winning the European Championship in 1984. He retired last year after his team failed to qualify for this year's European Championship. He also helped Juventus win the Italian championship and the Champions Cup.

Platini's appointment as the national team coach came in a surprise move last week before the World Cup qualifying game against Yugoslavia. His team lost the match 3-2 after leading 2-1.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Royals Trophy

FALCON meet Unity in the semifinals of the Rothmans Royals Trophy cricket tournament, organised by Unity Cricketers, at the EPI ground on Friday. The umpires for this match, to start at 9.00 am, will be from Bright Stars. In the second match, at 1.10 pm, on the same day and same ground, Union face Starlite. Capri will provide both the umpires.

League president

LONDON, Nov 22, (UPI): Jack Dunnett was elected as president of the English Soccer League for the second time yesterday. Dunnett, 66, a director of Third Division Notts County, served as president from 1981-86, and narrowly beat First Division Newcastle United's chairman Gordon McKeag 31-28 when the League held an extraordinary meeting yesterday.

Gary Lineker

BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 22, (Reuters): Spanish First Division soccer club Barcelona said today there had been no moves to transfer England striker Gary Lineker. But, a spokesman for the club admitted they were always open to offers.

Belgian GP

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Nov 22, (AP): Eighth-seeded Australian Wally Masur and West German Michael Westphal today reached the second round of the \$490,000 Belgian Indoor Championship Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Rous Cup

LONDON, Nov 22, (Reuters): Spain have been invited by the English Football Association (FA) to take part with England and Scotland in the Rous Cup at the end of the season, it was announced today.

Soviet goalie

SEVILLE, Spain, Nov 22, (AP): Hundreds of Spanish soccer fans welcomed Soviet goalie Rinat Dassaev to his new slot at Seville's major League team yesterday with cries of "torero, torero" — praise normally reserved for triumphant bullfighters.

Soccer strike

MADRID, Nov 22, (Reuters): Spain's two main unions today called on professional soccer players to join a general strike on December 14.

Sanchez beaten

ITAPARICA, Brazil, Nov 22, (Reuters): Top seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain was beaten 6-4 6-4 in the first round of the Itaparica Open tennis tournament yesterday by unseeded Argentine left-hander Javier Frana.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Dunhill tournament (8th week) played at the Hilton Hotel on Monday:

- N/S
1. Tawil & Sabri
2. Tibb & Wilson
3. Sagre & Gajjar
E/W
1. Sherin & Melham
2. Dr Parikh & Simon
3. Aurora & Samha
Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:
1. Ely Laumets & Nicole Iskander
2. Margaret Maynard & Daphne El Saad
3. Riana Ayyad & Ghofron Mikiel
There will be no bridge on Sunday Nov 27. Bridge will recommence on Sunday, Dec 4.

SEVERE EUROPEAN WEATHER TO TEST ITALIAN QUARTET

Napoli give Bordeaux the shivers

BORDEAUX, France, Nov 22, (Reuters): Napoli's rampaging attacking style, highly unusual for an Italian team, has given Bordeaux the shivers before the home leg of their UEFA Cup third round tie tomorrow.

The French side's trainer Aime Jacquet, who witnessed Napoli's scarcely credible 5-3 win at Juventus on Sunday, said: "We are in great danger. Napoli are better than us. I would say about 200 per cent better."

With Diego Maradona pulling the strings for Brazilian Careca, who hit a hat-trick against Juventus, and the Italian League's top scorer Andrea Carnevale, Bordeaux's unbeaten run of 11 European matches looks seriously threatened.

Attacking
Napoli, who banged in eight in a League game against Pescara last month, are not surprisingly top scorers in Italy.

But their trainer Ottavio Bianchi is almost apologetic about their attacking style, attributing it to the absence of key midfielders Alemão, who has viral

hepatitis, and Francesco Romano, who has a broken leg.

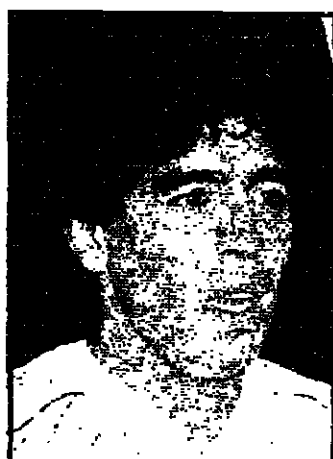
"These two are the brains of my team," he said shortly after the team arrived in France. "With them, we play the short ball. Now we are forced to seek other solutions."

Jacquet, faced with the rare problem of having to worry more about a visiting Italian team's forwards than about breaking down their defence, is expected to use veteran midfielder Jean Tigana in an attempt to mark Maradona out of the game.

The Argentine World Cup captain, his right thigh heavily bandaged, is not fully fit, but played brilliantly on Sunday and is confident of facing Bordeaux. "I'll be there on Wednesday. I wouldn't miss it," he said.

Jacquet is at least as concerned at his own side's poor form. Bordeaux have slipped to ninth in the table, 12 points behind League leaders Paris Saint-Germain and have not won in the championship for five weeks.

The French club will be without two foreign players — Eng-



Maradona

ish striker Clive Allen is ill and new signing Dane Jesper Olsen is ineligible. But Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo, who was with Inter Milan last season, will play.

So, too, will striker Yannick Stopyra who helped Toulouse knock Maradona and Napoli out of the UEFA Cup two seasons ago.

Meanwhile, Italian League leaders Internazionale Milan will

need to dig into their reserves of character and determination tomorrow when they meet West German counterparts Bayern Munich in the top UEFA Cup third round first leg tie.

Severe weather, which has brought an early winter to much of Europe, and the awesome power of the Munich team will test the Italians' temperament to the full on a night when they hope to lead a quartet of Italian clubs towards the quarterfinals.

"It will be a very tough match and we must play with great calm, but also with intelligence and vigilance," said Internazionale coach Giovanni Trapattoni. "We can do it if we don't make any mistakes."

Bayern, whose squad have been playing handball in the snow this week, are unbeaten in 18 League matches this season and have hammered a total of 15 goals in four UEFA Cup ties to date.

Juventus fear the strength of Liege, coach Dino Zoff admitting they are a "very dangerous team," differing greatly from the

image we have of Belgian football which is fast and tactical.

"Liege instead mark tightly, are physically very tough, hard and strong."

Roma coach Nils Liedholm said his biggest concern was cold weather which would persuade him to omit his newly-signed Brazilian Andrade.

Tire

"He's not used those temperatures," he said. "But he is the best person to tire out the opposition."

Roma will be without suspended midfielder Lionello Manfredonia and injured Brazilian striker Renato.

Like Italy, West Germany is strongly represented with three clubs in the third round. In addition to Bayern, VfB Stuttgart meet Groningen of the Netherlands — the only tie to be played this evening — and Cologne face Real Sociedad of Spain.

The other two ties are between Hearts of Scotland and Velez Mostar of Yugoslavia and Victoria Bucharest and Finland's Turun Palloseura.

Alien stretches RAC rally lead

GRIZEDALE, England, Nov 22, (AP): Finland's Markku Alen, in a Lancia Delta, stretched his lead in the Lombard RAC Rally to 4-1/2 minutes today by winning the first stage of the third day's racing.

The 37-year-old Scandinavian, who is aiming to win the prestigious 1,750-mile round-Britain race for the first time in his 15-year career, added a minute to his overnight lead as the driver sped across snow-covered northeast England.

Sweden's Bjorn Waldegard, driving a Toyota Celica, led Finland's Hannu Mikkola, in a Mazda 323, by 15 seconds with Mikkola's countryman and teammate, Timo Salonen, a further 15 minutes behind.

Connors pulls out of New York tournament

Mayotte qualifies for Masters



Mayotte

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (Reuters): American Tim Mayotte became the sixth qualifier for the season-ending Masters tennis tournament as Jimmy Connors withdrew to undergo foot surgery, tournament director Eugene Scott announced yesterday.

Connors, the perennial crowd pleaser who has been bothered by a painful foot condition for the past few years, has scheduled surgery during the week of the tournament in an attempt to correct the chronic ailment, Scott said.

World number one Mats Wilander, five-time Masters champion Ivan Lendl, Andre Agassi, Stefan Edberg and Boris

Becker have already qualified for the elite, eight-man season finale beginning on November 30 at New York City's Madison Square Garden.

Ninth-ranked Mayotte, the Olympic silver medalist, is in seventh place in Grand Prix standing with 2,653 points. Connors's withdrawal assured him of a Masters berth.

Sweden's Kent Carlsson, in eighth place in the standings, will also skip the tournament. After major knee surgery last year Carlsson's doctors advised him to play only on softer clay surfaces.

With just one week of tournaments left before the masters, Henri Leconte of France, Jakob

Soviet Union increase lead in chess tourney

SALONIKA, Nov 22, (Reuters): The champion Soviet Union team stretched their lead to three points at the Chess Olympiad yesterday after the eighth round, despite lacklustre results against Yugoslavia.

Soviet ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov and Vassily Ivanchuk, playing with the white pieces, only managed draws against Predrag Nikolic and Dragolub Velimirovic of Yugoslavia respectively.

Nevertheless world champion Gary Kasparov impressively beat Lubomir Ljubojevic with the black pieces, taking his personal total to 5.5 points from six games, the best result for the top players at the tournament.

Second place Sweden could only tie with Cuba, allowing the fourth-seeded United States which easily beat Norway to share second place.



Piano Concert

In the Grand Ballroom on 26th November at 7.30 pm.
For reservations: Tel: 2422055 Ext. 104/109.

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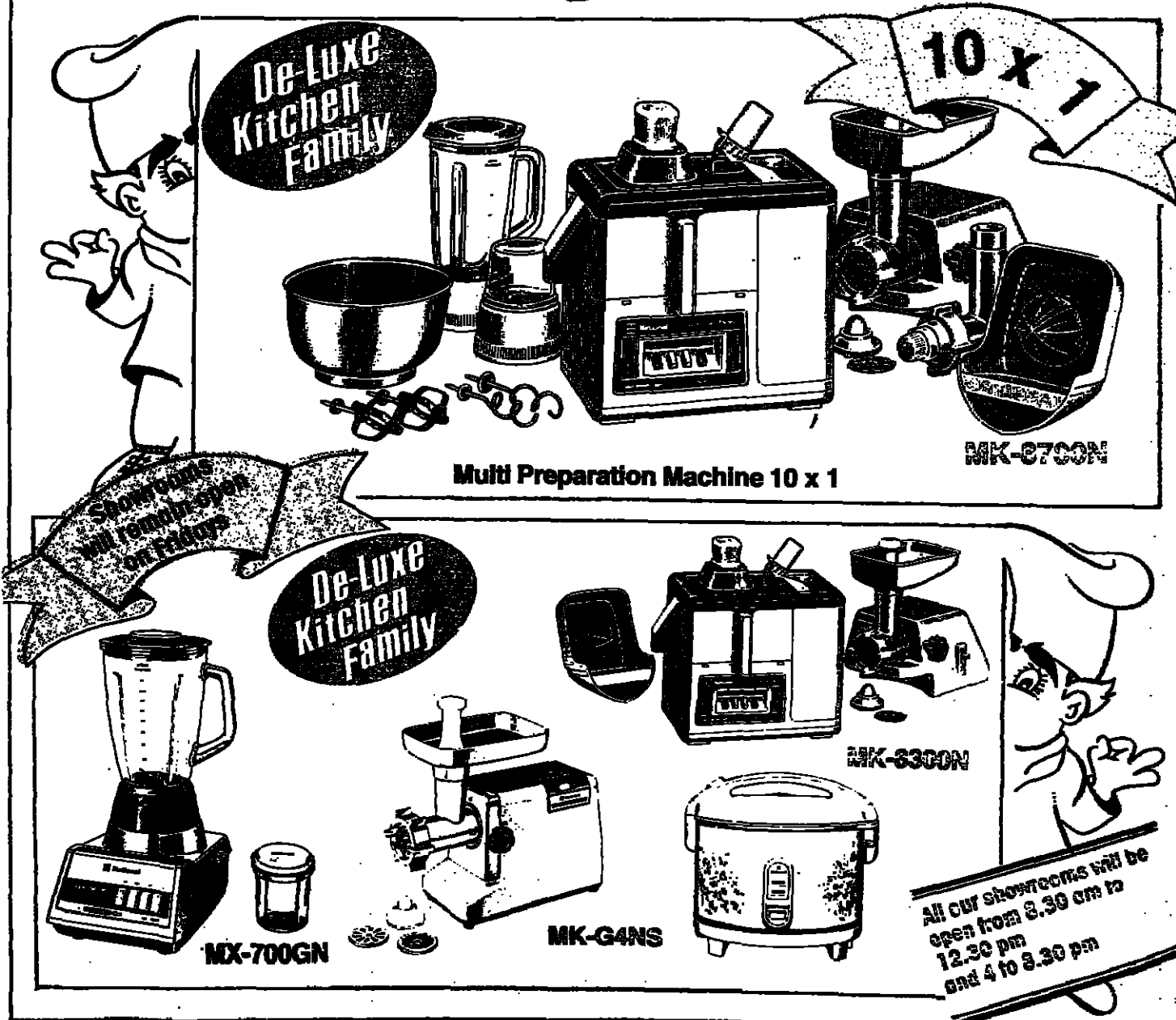
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